

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Star in hiding
Robert Redford explains why he prefers life in the hills and talks about his first starring role since 1979



Every woman's story
Margaret Forster, who has written a history of feminism, talks to Bel Mooney

Poison peril
Dioxin, the chemical that polluted Seveso, has been traced in Scotland

Flying higher
A review of Britain's airports, climbing into greater prosperity

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio Competition prize was shared between two winners yesterday. Mr William Smith of Forfar, Scotland, and Mrs Maureen Cutler of Maidstone, Kent, each received £1,000.

Portfolio list page 20. How to play, information service, back page.

Mortgage rate rise for some

The Cheltenham and Gloucester has become the first building society to announce a definite mortgage rate rise, increasing its rate by 0.5 of a percentage point to 13 per cent. Other societies are expected to decide in the next few days. Meanwhile, the Government has taken action over "misleading" society advertisements.

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England choice

England's selectors have named four uncapped players, Moxon, Cowdrey, Robinson and French, in their side to tour India and Pakistan this winter.

John Woodcock, page 24

Sakharov writes

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident Russian physicist, has been allowed to publish an article in a Soviet scientific journal, his first since the authorities' recent campaign against him.

Back page

Nuclear waste

Radioactive waste is being discharged into the Thames and the Severn Estuary by American International with government approval, according to a Ministry of Agriculture report.

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Post warning

Post Office customers face higher charges unless new technology is used to improve efficiency, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission says.

Page 3

The British Association

The shape of the car of the future. Rats to inherit the earth. Doubts over fringe medicine. The keys to police crime detection. Cipher methods to protect data. Clues to the fate of the universe.

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Leader, page 15

International debt, the SDP, the postal service. Letters: Airline competition from Mrs Rachel Waterhouse and Lord Kings Norton; on technical research from Dr J. Bray, MP. Features, pages 12, 14. Seeds of a challenge to Scargill, by David Hart; Agatha Christie: blowing the mystery woman's cover. Why nuclear cargoes at sea are worrying the experts; Sir Keith Joseph, a profile. Books: page 13. David Pryor-Jones reviews a biography of Kenneth Clark, fiction of the week by Stuart Evans and Philip Howard, thrillers by Tim Heald. Obituaries, page 16. Jerome C. Hunsaker, Lord Geoffrey Lloyd. Classified advertising, pages 27-29. Crème de la crème, page 26.

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Britain pressing US to drop Laker inquiry

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, will fly to Washington next week to press the United States to drop investigations into allegations that British Airways and other airlines conspired to put Laker Airways out of business.

The British Government fears that Justice Department investigations, and a related \$1,000m (£770m) civil law suit brought by the Laker Airways liquidator, could jeopardize the privatization of BA early next year.

The news comes as the Government is embroiled in a political row over plans to transfer routes from British Airways to British Caledonian and other independent British airlines. The Cabinet is expected to consider the Civil Aviation Authority's contentious proposals for route transfers.

Lord King, the BA chairman, has said repeatedly that route transfers could also jeopardize BA's Stock Market flotation.

Diplomatic sources in Washington said Sir Michael would arrive next Tuesday to make a speech and would meet Mr Fred Fielding, President Reagan's White House counsel, Justice Department officials and others involved in the Laker case.

The Attorney General is expected to express the Govern-

ment's concern that the Laker investigations are casting a serious shadow over preparations for the BA sale, provisionally fixed for February or March next year.

The Justice Department is investigating allegations that BA and other airlines engaged in price fixing and predatory practices against Laker Airways before it collapsed with massive debts in February 1982. Another investigation into claims that BA and other airlines, including British Caledonian, were involved in a conspiracy to block a last minute financial rescue of Laker was dropped by the Justice Department three months ago.

Neither the British or American governments have any powers to stop the civil law suit, which is being brought on similar grounds by Mr Christopher Morris, of accountants Touche Ross, the Laker Airways liquidator. Mr Morris won the right to press ahead with his United States case against British Airways in the House of Lords in July, after a long legal battle by the Government to stop it.

If the Justice Department dropped its investigation, however, it would almost certainly be seen as undermining some of the validity of the civil case, and could result in a sharp downgrading of any damages

awarded if it was won, Washington sources say.

The British Government's City advisers had told ministers and officials that the Laker litigation, if it was still outstanding at the time of BA's flotation, would make the shares harder to sell. The outstanding claims would have to be highlighted in the prospectus, and could well deter investors, even though BA has always denied liability.

The airline says in its latest report and accounts that the liquidator's complaint is "unfounded" in its opinion. It is not known what the precise liability facing BA out of the total claim of \$1,000m would be.

"The litigation need not in itself kill the share sale, but it would make what is already a difficult flotation that much harder," a merchant banker involved in the flotation preparations said last night.

The Government's aim is to sell 100 per cent of BA's share capital on the Stock Market, leaving the Government without any residual holding in the business. The airline is expected to be valued at £900m to £1,000m, although net proceeds would be considerably less after taking account of debt write-offs or other financial restructuring which is considered necessary before the shares can be sold.

Owen tears into 'most incompetent' Tories

By Julian Haviland

The Government, assessed on its own yardsticks, had a record of startling incompetence and inefficiency, Dr David Owen said yesterday in his first speech to the Social Democrats' conference at Buxton.

It was the most incompetent Tory government since that led by Sir Anthony Eden.

"Competence is a critical vote-winning issue," Dr Owen said. "In 1987 we might well be fighting on the slogan, 'After eight years of incompetence why not try a little competence?' Perhaps, too, a little tenderness."

Dr Owen spent little ammunition on Labour, beyond describing Mr Neil Kinnock as the most vacuous leader in Labour's history. "The first unilateralist, semi-neutralist since Lansbury, with no Ernie Bevin to tell him to stop bawling his conscience around."

Dr Owen's critics in the SDP, who are neither numerous, nor organized, have echoed the complaints of the previous leader, Mr Roy Jenkins, that some of his ideas are "sub-Thatcherian". To reassure them, he attacked the record of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and her colleagues over the whole field of government.

Conference report, page 4
Leading article, page 11

Compromise fails to satisfy miners

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The search for a settlement in the 27-week pit strike resumed last night amid fading optimism that a new coal board concession would satisfy militant leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers.

The venue was switched to a "secret" location after NCB and NUM leaders complained of "media harassment".

After yet another car chase, the talks were traced to the headquarters of British Ropes on an industrial estate in the centre of Doncaster, a large office block situated several hundred feet from the main road. Here, the two sides met in rather more privacy.

Negotiations had already been moved from Edingburgh to a hotel in the Selby coalfield, but were suspended before they could get under way.

In a rare outburst of unison, Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the board, and Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, appeared on the front step of the Monk Fryston Hall Hotel to announce they were moving elsewhere.

Mr Scargill said: "Media harassment today has made it impossible for these talks to continue at this venue."

To the motley crowd of waiting pressmen and television crews, many of whom have been pursuing the talks since they began four days earlier, Mr MacGregor added: "I share Mr Scargill's view."

Negotiations resumed for the fourth day after being pulled back from breakdown by Mr MacGregor's offer to withdraw his insistence on closing pits without reserve that can be "beneficially worked" in favour of a more general statement about future management.

He had suggested as a basis for a settlement that the two sides should accept that the NCB must be able to "exercise responsibility for the human and financial resources of the industry".

Miners' leaders agreed to discuss exactly what the board meant by this latest formula of words designed to bridge the gap between the two sides.

But it is becoming increasingly clear that NUM negotiators are spinning-out the talks, claiming to be the side that gets blamed for bringing them to a halt.

National union officials will report today to their 24-man executive committee.

The strike took an unexpected and potentially serious turn yesterday when NACODS, the deputies union, voted to ballot its 18,500 members on striking this month over the board's decision to stop the pay of members who do not make genuine attempts to cross picket lines. (Page 2).

Labour Party leaders yesterday accused Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, of attempting to sabotage peace talks with his speech on Tuesday about the "jack-boot" pickets.

Police have refused to comment on reports that the suspect is a labourer in his 30s who is married with two children.

The arrest comes just over two months after the search for The Fox became a major inquiry.

At the beginning of this week the incident room's manual index at Dunstable held nearly 20,000 names and the computer contained 8,500 individuals who had been checked or were being checked by detectives.

The target of the police hunt first came to notice last March with the start of a series of burglaries in and around a triangle of land marked by Linslade, Tring and Leighton Buzzard.

Last month the investigation moved 125 miles north when a couple were attacked in the south Yorkshire village of Brantford, close to the M1.

PC knocked down during No 10 protest



A policeman lies unconscious in Downing Street during the women's protest and (right) one of the demonstrators being led away (Photographs: John Voos)

Judge orders eviction of main Greenham women's camp

By a Staff Reporter

A policeman was knocked down during a Downing Street demonstration yesterday while attempting to assist in the arrest of three Greenham Common women.

The peace protesters jumped the barriers waving a banner saying "Evict Cruise, not Greenham Women" at Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, who was on his way to No 10.

The policeman, who lay unconscious on the road, was taken away in an ambulance. Three women were arrested, and taken to Cannon Row police station.

The protest came after Mr

Justice McPherson granted an order for possession on the land outside the main gate to the cruise missile base at Greenham Common, heralding the fifth eviction of women from the peace camp set up there three years ago.

The possession order was sought by the Department of Transport after the Prime Minister had promised early action to remove women from the main gate peace camp, which alone of the 10 camps surrounding the base has not been subject to evictions in recent months.

About 50 Greenham women attended the High Court in London for the hearing, from which most were excluded

because it was held in chambers.

Several women hastily produced lapel badges saying "person unknown" in response to the Department's application which did not name the women against whom the possession order was sought.

The date for implementing the order was uncertain last night. But Ms Rebecca Johnson, one of the Greenham veterans, said: "The order will not change anything. It will be just as unsuccessful as the other evictions."

Earlier in the day, police were called to the Greenham Common air base when 12 women peace campaigners tried to prevent workmen repairing the perimeter fence.

Police hold man in 'Fox' rape inquiry

By Stewart Tendler

Crime Reporter

Detectives hunting the armed rapist and burglar dubbed "The Fox" last night announced that they are charging a man held during investigations in London earlier this week.

The man was interviewed by officers from the investigation headquarters in Dunstable, held at Kenilworth Town police station in north London and then driven to Dunstable for further questioning. Yesterday the interviews continued, and last night a statement was issued after Mr Andrew Sloan, chief constable of Bedfordshire, arrived at Dunstable.

The statement said that the man was "being interviewed and other inquiries are being made. It is anticipated that charges will be brought and he will subsequently appear in court."

Police have refused to comment on reports that the suspect is a labourer in his 30s who is married with two children.

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Pentagon halts supplies from 80 firms

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The supply of some key weapons systems to the United States Defence Department has been temporarily disrupted by the discovery that a major defence contractor shipped improperly-tested microchips to the manufacturers involved.

The microchips, produced by Texas Instruments, were part of the bombing and navigation systems for such aircraft as the B52 and the B1 bombers and the F15 fighter. They are also in the Marm anti-radar missile Texas Instruments is making for the US Navy.

The Pentagon said it has stopped accepting military equipment from more than 80 contractors which use the

improperly-tested chips. It is also considering whether to conduct a criminal investigation into the company's apparent negligence.

Altogether some 1,700 different types of microchips are involved. Both the Pentagon and Texas Instruments have tried to play down the case.

A Pentagon spokesman said there was no evidence that any weapons systems had failed because of the suspect microchips. The company said there had been only a "handful" of instances where the tests were improperly conducted.

But it was a Texas Instruments chip, similar to those now under scrutiny by the

Pentagon, that short-circuited and caused a delay in the launching of the space shuttle Discovery in June. The chips also are used in a number of nuclear weapons systems, where a faulty electronic circuit could have disastrous consequences.

The suspects chips were first discovered by IBM, which supplies large numbers of electronic components to the Defence Department. Pentagon officials said Texas Instruments may have shipped around 15 million microchips to IBM alone in the past eight years.

Other major contractors using similar chips include Northrop, General Dynamics, Continued on back page, col 4

Ferraro to face inquiry

Washington (AP) - The House ethics committee voted unanimously yesterday to conduct a formal inquiry into alleged irregularities in the financial disclosures of Ms Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate.

Representative Louis Stokes, chairman of the 12-member bipartisan panel, said the inquiry was analogous to a grand jury investigation. The committee made no prejudgment of any kind as to the validity of the allegations, he said.

The charges were levelled by the conservative Washington Legal Foundation last month. The organization said Ms Ferraro had wrongly claimed exemptions from revealing her husband's assets and liabilities on the statements she had filed with the ethics committee since coming to Congress in 1979.

Abortion conflict, page 9

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Bonanza Olympics make surprise £115m profit

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

The first privately financed Olympic Games turned into a bonanza beyond anyone's wildest predictions. The Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee reported a profit of \$150m (about £115m) 10 times the projected surplus.

The windfall will be used to underwrite amateur sports in the United States and perhaps in some Third World nations as well, Mr Peter Ueberroth, the Los Angeles committee president, said.

Mr Peter Ueberroth, the Olympic committee's general manager, Mr Harry Usher said the surplus was due to a last-minute deluge of ticket sales, the International Olympic Committee to support sports

to ABC television not demanding a refund even though the Russians and other Soviet block nations boycotted the Games, and huge savings because the thousands of Olympic volunteers worked for nothing. ABC had paid \$225m for television rights.

From the surplus \$75m will go to the US Olympic committee and groups that organize US amateur sports, \$50m to the Los Angeles Olympic Association and \$25m to a local athletics fund. Mr Ueberroth said some of the reserve fund money might be channelled via the International Olympic Committee to support sports

programmes in Third World countries. "The surplus provides a legacy for athletes of America," said Mr Ueberroth.

Latest figures show that the Los Angeles Games generated \$619m and expenses of \$469m. The Games cost \$28m less than expected.

Other groups benefitted from the Olympics. The much

criticized Olympic torch relay raised \$10.9m which will be given to about 560 youth oriented sports groups around the US.

The city of Los Angeles lived up to its promise to spend no public funds during the Games and reported a surplus of at least \$200,000 and possibly as much as \$1m, mainly due to

taxes on Olympic tickets and hotel rooms as well as funds provided by the LAOOC.

Even the US Defence Department did not spend as much as it had budgeted for the Games. The Defence Department had \$50m worth of taxpayers' money to cope with security related work but only spent \$35m. There were few security scares.

Although the overall picture was a bright one for the Los Angeles committee and other groups, scores of businesses in southern California and hotels and amusement parks reported huge losses this summer because the Olympics scared off regular tourists.

Nuclear waste goes in rivers on Government approval

By Patricia Clough

Radioactive waste is being released into the River Thames and the Severn Estuary by Amersham International, processors of radioactive materials, with the Government's approval, according to a Ministry of Agriculture report released yesterday.

More nuclear waste is being discharged by naval establishments at Chatham, in Kent, Devonport, Faslane Bay in Strathclyde, and Rosyth in Fife, and by the US naval base at Holy Loch, Strathclyde, the report said.

Public exposure to radiation from the discharges by the naval bases is very low, less than 0.1 per cent of the maximum safety limit recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection, according to the report on aquatic environment monitoring.

Exposure from the discharges into the Thames catchment area from Amersham International at Amersham, Buckinghamshire, and into the Severn estuary from the company's laboratory near Cardiff, was also "very small" and difficult to detect, the report said.

The company processes radioactive materials for use in industry, research and medicine.

A report issued simultaneously by British Nuclear Fuels says discharge of radioactive waste from its Sellafield

plant in Cumbria fell substantially in 1983. The total discharge was 67,570 curies compared with 96,171 the year before. This included an estimated 1,600 curies, believed to have escaped last November in an accident which left the nearby beaches contaminated for several months, a company spokesman said.

The total included 378 curies of materials, more dangerous substances including plutonium, compared with 769 the previous year. The report contained reassurances for people living or working near the BNF sites at Sellafield and Drigg, Cumbria, Springfield, Lancashire, and Capenhurst, Cheshire.

The report said those most at risk from radioactive discharge, fishermen and people who eat large amounts of local seafood, are exposed to up to 0.1 per cent of the recommended limit. Houseboat dwellers on the Ribble estuary near Springfield, a newly identified risk-group, are being monitored by the Ministry and the latest figures show them exposed to 7 per cent of the limit.

Radioactivity in surface and coastal waters of the British Isles, 1982. (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 1984).

Discharges and Monitoring of the Environment 1983. (British Nuclear Fuels plc, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire).

TV films on nuclear war effects

The BBC is launching a two-day "nuclear attack" on viewers later this month with three programmes about the possible effects of a nuclear war in Britain.

The four-hour package will be introduced by John Tusa, who will warn viewers about the contents of two of the programmes. *Threads*, on September 23, and *On the Eighth Day*, on September 24.

On the Eighth Day, an hour-long documentary, will be followed by a *Newsnight* special, *Newsnight Nuclear Debate*, chaired by Mr Tusa and examining the two programmes.

The documentary takes its name from computer-generated maps of the world which have been used by American and Soviet scientists to predict world temperatures on the eighth day after a nuclear attack.

Their findings are that even if only a small proportion of the 55,000 existing nuclear warheads were fired the whole northern hemisphere would be plunged into a "nuclear winter".

Threads is a drama documentary lasting nearly two hours.

Mont Louis now deeper in Channel

By Tony Sametang

The wreck of the French freighter, *Mont Louis*, and her cargo of uranium hexafluoride sank further into the Channel off Ostend yesterday, as salvage workers manoeuvred a 29-metre pontoon alongside in the hope of creating a breakwater.

Three minisweepers and a flotilla of smaller boats stood by while divers attempted to take advantage of slightly better weather to check the state of the 30 barrels of radioactive material.

British seamen reported tentative support in their efforts to persuade the member nations of the United Nations International Maritime Organization to tighten regulations for the transport of hazardous substances. Since the ship sank last month, the National Union of Seamen has been using the implied threat of a boycott of all nuclear cargoes in its campaign, which was endorsed yesterday by that court officials manipulate the choice of judges to try to influence sentencing policy. Oxford University researchers were reported in *The Times* on Monday as saying: "Almost all the court staff to whom we spoke disliked seeing offenders 'getting off lightly'."

Carrying the can, page 14

Steel plating for Scotland Yard tower

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Scotland Yard headquarters are expected to have a £50m facelift in stainless steel as a result of partial settlement of a four-year legal battle.

The troubles began nearly seven years ago when some of the polished granite panels which clad the exterior of the building began to crack. A safety "ban" or projecting screen was placed around the perimeter of the 222-ft tower at its base should debris fall, to prevent them hitting passers-by.

Writs were issued by Scotland Yard's Receiver, Mr A. D. Gordon-Brown in October, 1980, against Chapman Taylor Partners, the architects; Bylander, Waddell and Partners, structural engineers; the Greater London Council and Westminster Trust and William Willett (10 Broadway) Ltd, both subsidiaries of Land Securities, the landlords.

Scotland Yard says they were all involved in the construction and provision of the headquarters. The Metropolitan Police were claiming damages in respect of various defects to the granite cladding.

Scotland Yard says that Mr Gordon-Brown also began proceedings in July, 1982, against Land Securities to obtain consent previously withheld but

Share-out of air routes delayed

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

A Cabinet decision on the British Airways/British Caledonian fracas is not now expected until next week to give Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, more time to stitch together a compromise.

Meetings with airline executives continued yesterday, but Mr Ridley was thought unlikely to produce an answer for today's Cabinet meeting planned.

There has been a noticeable coming together between the parties as the deadline approached, and although Mr Ridley may still need to knock heads together a solution somewhere between the three proposals below, from the Civil Aviation Authority, British Airways, and British Caledonian, seems likely.

It will probably be less than the CAA proposals, certainly less than B-Cal's ambitious ideas; but somewhat more than BA has been prepared to offer.

A likely outcome is that BA will not be forced to hand over three routes to Jiddah, Dhahran, and Harare, lock stock and barrel to B-Cal as recommended by the CAA; but that B-Cal will be allowed to compete with BA on at least the 13 routes proposed by BA and possibly up to 25, but without the capacity restrictions on B-Cal suggested by BA.

CAA proposals: Substitute B-Cal for BA to Jiddah, Dhahran, Harare, Delhi, Shanghai, Peking. Give B-Cal 50/50 right to compete with BA to Athens, Rome, Düsseldorf, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oslo, Moscow, Abu Dhabi, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Cologne, Vienna, Milan, Paris, Frankfurt, Geneva, Brussels. Transfer BA's scheduled flights from Gatwick to Paris: Bilbao, Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, Lisbon, Oporto, Gibraltar, Malaga, Naples, Bologna. Designate B-Cal as future competitor with BA to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Tokyo, Osaka, Colombo, Seoul, Anchorage, Hamilton, Stuttgart, Nice, Hanover, Helsinki.

BA proposals: Allow B-Cal to compete with BA, with initial shares of 5 per cent to 20 per cent to B-Cal, 80 per cent to 95 per cent to BA, to Düsseldorf, Lisbon, Madrid, Milan, Rome, Malaga, Barcelona, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Dubai, Delhi, Toronto, Montreal, Miami.

Cuts of up to £35 in return fares from regional airports to Paris and Dublin were announced yesterday.



Unknown wins stardom: Of the many aspirants for a £160-a-week role in *See How They Run* at London's Shaftesbury Theatre, the choice fell on Boot, a shaggy mongrel. Boot's pedigree predecessor lost the part for coming on and off stage at the wrong times (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Four years' jail for race-hate woman

A woman who joined her three sons and three lodgers in a campaign of racial hatred was jailed for four years yesterday. June Shirley Withers, aged 44, was found guilty at Chelmsford Crown Court of conspiring to commit criminal damage. Her three sons and the three lodgers admitted charges of conspiring to commit criminal damage.

Anthony Chiassaro and Paul Locke, both aged 17, who were described as the ringleaders of the group, were each sentenced to four years' youth custody. Denzil Withers, aged 19, and Steven Bundock, aged 17, were sentenced to 30 months' custody. Alan Withers, aged 18, was sentenced to six months' custody, and Graham Withers, aged 15, was sent to a detention centre for four months.

Mr David Radcliffe, for the prosecution, said that during a 19-day reign of terror, the group, which called itself the Harlow Anti-Paki League, carried out 10 attacks on the homes of Pakistani families at Harlow, Essex, causing £3,500 of damage.

They smashed windows and glass doors with rocks and stones. The group's military-style operations centre was at June Withers' council house at Berecroft, Harlow. She was the league's intelligence officer and quartermaster. Chiassaro and Locke were the founders, leaders and most active participants.

Mr David Etherington, for the defence, said the group was not politically motivated. The members hung their acts of criminal vandalism "on a peg of racial dislike".

Duke urges scrapping of income tax

By a Staff Reporter

The abolition of income tax was advocated yesterday by the Duke of Edinburgh.

In an article in the humorous weekly *Punch*, he argues that any tax on wages and salaries is a tax not only on the employee but also on the employer. Such taxes, the Duke says, have helped to compress the difference between skilled and unskilled pay rates, to cut the number of apprenticeships and to reduce job opportunities.

"There might be a case for progressive rates of tax on savings income," the Duke writes, "but there is none for taxes on wages and salaries."

His forthright views caused some puzzlement in Whitehall yesterday, where it was pointed out that more than a third of the Exchequer's overall revenue came from income tax. Without it, the trade deficit for 1983/84 would have been £44,000m instead of £13,000m.

A former permanent secretary, who preferred not to be named, said the only country he could think of that did not levy income tax was the Soviet Union, which taxed industrial turnover instead.

The Duke does not explain how the Government might raise equivalent amounts of money without income tax, nor how it might cut its spending accordingly. But, in an article which Buckingham Palace confirmed yesterday was intended to be both serious and provocative, he expresses doubts about many aspects of present economic "folklore".

Maze segregation admission fuels 'loyalist' demands

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Officials at the Northern Ireland Office confirmed that *de facto* segregation of republican and "loyalist" prisoners existed in the Maze jail yesterday as 10 men continued to fast for separation in another of the province's jails.

Admission by the Government that in a majority of wings of the H blocks in the top security prison, inmates are apart will fuel demands from "loyalist" prisoners and Unionist politicians for similar conditions at Magilligan jail in Co Londonderry.

Ten "loyalists" in the prison are on hunger strike aiming for segregation. They alleged that they feared for their lives and had been attacked by republicans in the jail. The crisis at the prison is the main priority for Mr Douglas Hurd and although there are no plans for him or Mr Nicholas Scott, the Minister in charge of prisons, to visit the jail, Mr Scott has agreed to see a deputation from the "loyalist" prisoners' rights committee on Monday.

Fears are growing that "loyalist" terrorists are thinking of attacking prison staff but both the families of the 10 men and the hunger strikers have expressed opposition to such tactics. They are against bomb scares which again disrupted traffic in Belfast yesterday when 11 suspect packages and vehicles had to be checked by the security forces.

The Rev David Armstrong, prison chaplain at Magilligan, gave the prison authorities information that "loyalist" para-militaries were attempting to attack prison staff. He has been questioned by the RUC. He said there was merit in the prisoners' demands but he did not want to see that sabotaged by actions outside the jail which

were stupid and wrong. "If any of these men die the duke will burst. I don't want to see any loss of life or property."

Mr Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, said after talking to six of the men that they were determined if necessary to go to the very end. Mr Robinson said: "It would be a calamity for this country if we were to have anyone die in our prisons on hunger strike again. We have seen the trauma in our society as a result of the republican hunger strike."

Two of the men, William McQuiston, aged 27, and Thomas Harris, aged 30, both from Belfast, enter the twenty-fifth day of their fast this morning. They have been transferred to the prison hospital but according to the Northern Ireland Office their condition, and that of the other eight, give no cause for concern. Both men had only a few months to serve of jail sentences imposed for terrorist offences.

The jail has 330 prisoners almost equally divided between Roman Catholic and Protestant.

Belfast paper goes tabloid

Northern Ireland's biggest-selling morning newspaper, *News Letter*, Belfast, changes its format from broadsheet to tabloid this morning in an attempt to reverse a dramatic decline in circulation.

The *Unionist Paper's* sales dropped from a high of 90,000 13 years ago to 43,000. The nationalist *Irish News*, under a young editor and new proprietor, has increased its circulation to 42,500.

X-rated film video is not obscene

The video tape of the film *Possession* was not obscene, a jury at Knightsbridge Crown Court decided yesterday, when the video's distributors, Video Tape Centre, of the Strand, London, were found not guilty of having an obscene article for publication for gain.

Although the film was granted an X certificate for cinema showings by the British Board of Film Censors the video was described as "obscene" during the trial by Mr Kenneth Richardson, for the prosecution. He said that because it was available in the home "children and others may be corrupted by it".

The film, featuring Sam Neill and Isabella Adjani, won awards at the Cannes film festival in 1981 and was voted "best film" at the Trieste film festival and "outstanding film of the year" at the London film festival.

The jury took two hours 14 minutes to consider their verdict.

Mr Richard Du Cann, QC, for the defence, had told the jury: "You may find parts absolutely revolting but that is not the test."

Judge Phelan ordered costs to be awarded to VTC out of central funds.

Car plant men due to return

Normal working is expected to resume today at BL's assembly plant at Cowley, Oxford. Shop stewards are to urge men in the paint shop to work an extra half hour so that the factory can operate for 39 hours.

Fixed overtime in the paint shop, which has been worked for two years, is needed to clean the paint booths. But the men refused the extra work as part of an overtime ban imposed at the plant as a protest against low bonuses.

The paint show workers have been locked out since Friday and, as a result, 2,000 other workers have been laid off and production has been stopped.

Assembly plant workers were called to meetings last night and today to consider proposals by shop stewards that will allow normal working, and the continuation of the ban.

A BL spokesman said 520 manual workers had been recalled for the night shift. He said the recall was on the basis that shop stewards would be recommending the men to return to work. A similar recommendation would be put to the day shift.

£250,000 for crash footballer

Mr Douglas Wilkie, a former Scottish Premier League footballer, who was paralysed after a train crash has accepted more than £250,000 damages from British Rail in an out-of-court settlement. Lord Hunter, vacation judge at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, announced the settlement yesterday.

Mr Wilkie who was 22 at the time of the crash in 1979, had signed for Dundee United. He sued for £400,000 damages, and interest.

A full hearing of evidence was due to be heard in the Scottish court in October. British Rail had accepted liability, and the only issue was the amount to be awarded. Mr Wilkie now lives in New York.

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Peace talks ruled out in docks strike

By Glen Allan

The docks strike last night looked set to drag on as both sides dug their heels in and refused to contemplate peace talks.

Mr John Connolly, docks organizer for the Transport and General Workers' Union, set the tone yesterday when he said there were no signs that peace talks would take place.

"There is very little change" he said. "Our position is the same as it has been since day one of the strike."

Mr Nicholas Finner, director of the National Association of Port Employers, replied: "That says it all. There can be no negotiations in that kind of spirit."

The association executive met today to consider their reaction to the strike now almost three weeks old, but it is clear that, in view of Mr Connolly's comments, an initiative to break the deadlock will not be on their agenda.

Instead, the meeting is expected to provide a forum for members to exchange views on how to limit the effects of the strike.

Support for the strike is still fluctuating. The numbers going to work compared with those remaining out have changed daily.

Yesterday, a total of 6,070 registered dockers turned up for work, compared with 5,990 on Tuesday. A significant part of this increase was 150 dockers at Grange who crossed picket lines to report for duty. The number of men on strike totalled 8,491, compared with 8,570 on Tuesday.

Pit deputies to vote again on strike

From Craig Seton, Doncaster

The coal strike took an unexpected turn yesterday when NACODS, the deputies union, voted to ballot its 18,500 members on strike action this month over the National Coal Board's decision to stop the pay of members who do not make genuine attempts to cross picket lines.

The dispute between the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shot-Firers, has escalated rapidly from the Yorkshire coalfield where officials at about 14 pits had their pay stopped for not crossing picket lines.

Yesterday, at a meeting in Doncaster, delegates were said to have overwhelmingly approved a unanimous and strong recommendation from the national executive to take strike action under rule 21, which requires a two-thirds majority in a national ballot, the result of which will be known by September 28.

The decision shocked some members of the Coal Board who feared that it could considerably strengthen Mr Scargill's negotiating hand and put a new complexion on the six-month strike if deputies walk out in working coalfields.

The moderate deputies carry out vital supervision and their presence is considered essential for safety. However, NACODS members have voted during the current dispute against striking under the two-thirds majority rule, although more than 50 per cent voted to strike.

There is considerable doubt that deputies would strike in moderate areas, but the executive appeared confident yesterday that a strong vote in other areas could achieve that majority. Executive members say that the mood of their men has hardened considerably.

The delegate meeting was picketed by about 150 Yorkshire members, some of whom

Pit deputies to vote again on strike

From Craig Seton, Doncaster

went on strike at Kellingley, Yorkshire, and set up picket lines over the coal board's decision in August to stop the pay of those they considered were not making genuine efforts to get to work.

The delegates' vote to ballot was on three grounds, the coal board's cutback in capacity, its attitude in the implementation of conciliation procedures and the rejection of the board's guidelines expecting members to cross picket lines in protected NCB vehicles and with police escorts.

Mr Peter McNestry, NACODS secretary, said the union was calling for Mr Ian McGregor's retirement.

A Yorkshire coal board spokesman greeted the decision with considerable surprise and said that deputies had been required to get into work at pits only because miners had started returning to work.

A Yorkshire family has been refused a DHSS grant to bury their 12-year-old handicapped son because his father, a miner at Ferrybridge, Yorkshire, is on strike.

Mr Ken Sampey, NACODS president, said afterwards: "Our relations with the coal board have never been as sour as at the present time. We have been the piggies in the middle and we have been used as pawns. We are not going to accept inhuman and undignified instructions from the coal board to get through picket lines."

He said about 700 NACODS members were not being paid.

Twenty five per cent of Norfolk uniformed police patrol officers are out of the county on picket duties, but recorded crime dropped by 4.1 per cent during the first seven months of 1984. Detection is up 1.4 per cent.

Cash to miners delayed

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A special meeting of the TUC's "inner cabinet", the finance and general purposes committee, due to be held today to organize financial help for the miners, has been postponed because of uncertainty over the outcome of the peace talks.

The committee had been expected to discuss a call for the establishment of a special loan fund to channel money to the miners, but TUC officials called off the meeting because it had been impossible to discuss with miners' leaders the most effective way of organizing the scheme.

Before the postponed meeting

takes place - possibly tomorrow, although more likely next week - leaders of the NUM will hold talks with Mr Norman Willis, the new TUC general secretary, and other senior figures in the union movement. It is also likely that they will be invited to appear before the committee.

The executive of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, whose 28,000 members work in power stations, meet today to decide their attitude to last week's TUC call for action in support of the miners' dispute.

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Building societies alter adverts on rates after government pressure

The Government has stepped to stop "misleading" building society advertisements on interest rates for investors.

A strongly worded letter from Mr Michael Bridgeman, Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, says down new advertising guidelines. It comes after a series of complaints about the way building societies calculated interest rates in the recent, fierce competition to attract savers' cash.

A number of societies, including the second largest, Abbey National, last week altered advertising "true annual rates" of interest, a rate known as the APR which assumes that interest payments during the year are left invested to earn more interest.

Because the APR includes compounded interest, it is higher than the normal "contractual rate". But after Mr Bridgeman's warning that the "true annual rate" was "misleading", Abbey National and other societies yesterday changed their advertising emphasis.

The Chief Registrar, who is

the Government watchdog over the societies, sent his warning to the Building Societies Association, which passed it to societies as "a matter of urgency".

"I consider that it is essential that if investors are not to be misled they should be fully aware of the contractual rate of interest," Mr Bridgeman said. "I contrast the APR is not the one which the majority of investors will ever actually receive."

Although the letter contained only "suggestions", societies seem to have acted quickly.

Last week Abbey National was advertising its seven-day account as paying 9.5 per cent, and explaining in a small footnote how this was calculated from a basic 9.28 per cent. Now it is advertising a rate of "9.28 per cent equals 9.5 per cent".

Other societies, including Nationwide, also gave equal prominence to the contractual rate in their latest advertising.

The letter recommended that if only one rate of interest was

mentioned in advertisements, it should be the contractual rate. If the APR was also mentioned it should not be given greater prominence.

The Chief Registrar's move comes after an aggressive round of investment rate increases by building societies competing for depositors' funds.

The societies received less than £100m in deposits during August, one of the worst monthly intakes for years. They put most of the blame for the low inflows on the twenty-eighth National Savings issue, withdrawn on Tuesday.

Before this round of rate rises, societies had normally quoted the nominal and gross interest rates on their accounts. The annualized rate was usually added as a way of comparing rates with those of other societies.

But Abbey National began using it as its principal quoted rate, which might have caused confusion to investors trying to compare it with the lower nominal rates quoted by other societies.

Private conveyancing upheld

A firm of estate agents has won the first round in a legal battle to offer free conveyancing services to families whose homes they are selling. After a hearing in private yesterday in the High Court at Manchester, Mr Justice Gledhill refused to grant an injunction restraining the firm from doing the work themselves or through agents including a notary public.

A local solicitor, Mr A. E. C. Cohen, supported by the Attorney General's flat, had brought the action against Morleys Legal Services, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Morleys Estate Agents Ltd.

Giving his judgment in open court, the judge said the estate agents were well known throughout Greater Manchester. Steps were already afoot to break the near-monopoly of solicitors in relation to conveyancing and the Government was considering legislation so that others could carry through such transactions.

The judge said the firm had already issued a brochure about its intentions. Under the present restrictions, solicitors and barristers who might work for them could be disciplined for breaches of the rules of their professional bodies. But Morleys had now disclosed they

planned to use a notary public, who was not a solicitor, to do the work on their behalf.

"My view is that these defendants could so arrange matters that the notary public they have in mind would be responsible to the clients," the judge said.

"I cannot say, if the defendants were then prosecuted under the Solicitors Act, that that prosecution would succeed. For that reason, I feel it would be improper to grant injunctive relief."

The plaintiffs were given leave to appeal against the decision.

Revolt forecast on divorcee marriages

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Up to a quarter of the diocesan bishops of the Church of England are expected to refuse to operate the proposed scheme for remarrying divorced people in church, the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Graham Leonard, indicated yesterday.

Of the 43 English diocesan bishops, 10 had already publicly committed themselves against the proposals, and he said he knew of others who privately took the same view. Of the 10, those who had spoken to him on the point had said they could not, in conscience, "work" the system. He said he could not speak for them all, as not all had yet told him whether they would operate the system under protest.

The proposed scheme is now about to be considered by the church's 44 diocesan synods (including the non-territorial "diocese in Europe"), and is yet to be given final approval by the General Synod, which has already approved the draft. The diocesan bishop's cooperation, under the draft scheme, is central to it, as he has to decide which cases to allow.

Dr Leonard said the scheme would, in his judgment, be "seriously distressing" to couples who applied for permission, and it required the bishops "to

make wrong decisions in the wrong way".

He was speaking at a press conference in London to launch the autumn campaign by a group called Marriage Solidarity, which is seeking to have the draft scheme rejected in the diocesan synods. Canon David Stevens, of Peterborough diocese, who is coordinating the campaign, said he estimated that in dioceses where the scheme had the bishop's approval, between a fifth and a sixth of the parish clergy would refuse to work it.

The campaign is supported by the Anglo-Catholic and Conservative Evangelical wings of the church, and pamphlets have been prepared for circulation throughout the church. Marriage Solidarity was instrumental in the rejection of an earlier scheme for selecting those cases to be permitted a second marriage, in spite of a majority in favour in the General Synod.

The campaign is backing alternative proposals drawn up by the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev John Baker, which would reassert the church's refusal of second marriage to a divorced person while supplying an official service of prayer for use after a civil ceremony.

Salmonella blamed on antibiotics

Salmonella poisoning, which has killed 27 people at Wakefield's Stanley Royd psychiatric hospital, is becoming more widespread and more lethal, according to an article in the *New Scientist*.

An important factor in the rising number of fatalities is the use of antibiotics given to animals to stimulate growth. The article says that United States research published last week showed that antibiotics encouraged the spread of salmonella strains resistant to antibiotics in animals and humans.

"The fear is that a typhoid-like disease resistant to antibiotics may one day be incubated and spread to humans". Fifty-two outbreaks of salmonella infections involving more than 2,000 people in the United States in the past decade were studied. A quarter of the bugs isolated were resistant.

In Britain, the article says, some drug companies employ veterinary surgeons as consultants to prevent salmonella with additives. But, Mr Alan Linton, of Bristol Medical School, also blames modern farming such as transporting large numbers of calves across the country to intensive rearing farms, carrying salmonella with them. Salmonella is found in a large proportion of cattle, pigs and poultry.

Notified cases of salmonella poisoning have risen from 10,000 in 1977 to 17,000 in 1983 and deaths from 25 in 1972 to 65 in 1982.

The number of wedding guests suffering from Salmonella symptoms after a cold buffet at the Dorman Long United Assurance Club in Middlesbrough has risen to 61. Outside caterers prepared the meal for Mr John Stanton and his wife Wendy.

Police Constable Michael Smith said: "As I approached



Campaigning mother: Princess Anne launching the Asian Mother and Baby campaign yesterday. (Photograph: Orde Eliason).

Campaign to lower Asian baby deaths

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A three-year campaign to encourage Asian mothers-to-be to use ante-natal services to cut the very high rate of baby deaths at or near birth in the Asian community was launched yesterday by Princess Anne, president of the Save the Children Fund.

The £125m campaign, financed by the Department of Health and launched with the fund, will employ 80 "linkworkers". Asian mothers fluent in English and at least one other Asian language to encourage Asians to use maternity services, and to act as translators. The first are to be employed in Birmingham, then Newham, Leicester, Bradford, Bolton and Blackburn.

Miss Bahl said: "The women come from a culture in which pregnancy is not generally a medical concern. Campaign details from Asian Mother and Baby Campaign, Mary Detchelor House, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD.

Coach firm fined for video distraction

Notice of appeal was given yesterday after magistrates at Alfreton, Derbyshire, decided in a test case that videos in coaches can be a distraction to other road users. Hundreds of tour operators throughout Britain who have installed videos on coaches to relieve passengers' boredom on long distance journeys will keep a watching brief on the appeal.

The tour operators involved were Target Travel Coaches Ltd, of Station Road, Crumlington, Northumberland.

The case, which is believed to be the first of its kind, was brought after one of the company's coaches carrying Iranian students was stopped by police on the M1 motorway in Derbyshire.

Police Constable Michael Smith said: "As I approached

Minister tells PO to improve efficiency

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

The Post Office must implement efficiency improvements such as new technology or the customer will be paying an unacceptably high price for the service, Mr Alex Fletcher, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs said yesterday. He said the alternative may be a contraction of the postal system or subsidy from public funds.

The minister was responding to a report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission which called on post office management and unions to solve their dispute about automation as one of a number of cost-cutting measures.

The study commends the corporation on the improvement in service since the commission's last study four years ago, but concludes that it is still below target for both first and second class mail. Mail from London to the big cities is the worst, the report said.

The corporation's failure to realize the promised savings expected to accrue from mechanization of postal sorting is also criticized by the report.

The report is scathing about the corporation's industrial relations and industrial difficulties surrounding the mechanization programme have accumulated in such a way that, because of this and other factors, the cost savings originally envisaged have not yet been made.

"It is regrettable that the union (Union of Communication Workers) chose to express this dissatisfaction by refusal to cooperate in further extension of mechanized sorting of inward mail since this refusal delays the realization of the potential savings, which, when achieved, would benefit both the post office and its workforce. We urge both parties to make a new effort to settle this dispute."

The post office has had a difficult six months in industrial relations. To June, the corporation claims to have lost 22,000 man-days through dispute - more than the entire amount lost last year.

Sir Ron Dearing, chairman, said yesterday: "Three-quarters of our costs are for labour. We are determined, in discussion with our unions, to secure reforms which are vital to the interests of the business, its customers and staff."

The report also suggests that the corporation publish more detailed performance figures "so that the customer has a clearer idea of the service he can expect in particular areas for different types of mail".

The Post Office Letter Post Service (Stationery Office, 59-60, Leading article, page 12)

Station moves

The facade of Derby's Victoria railway station is to be moved 15 miles to the National Tramway Museum at Crich, Derbyshire. Amber Valley planning committee approved after the museum said it could organize the rebuilding of the facade.

Target Travel's solicitor, Mr Michael Parry, said: "There is no question of the coach driver himself being distracted and in realistic terms, compared with what else happens on the roads, the video was not a distraction to other drivers."

Reed, managing director of Target Travel, of Gorseale Road, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, said his company's regular customers included the Northumbria police who used coaches equipped with videos.

After the hearing, Mr Reed said: "This is a terrible blow for the coach industry and I will appeal."

The Law Society pointed out that the decisions of magistrates' courts were not binding on other courts.

QC says evidence against Hutchinson 'is beyond doubt'

From Peter Davenport, Durham

The jury in the triple murder trial at Durham Crown Court was told yesterday that the evidence proved "beyond doubt" of any reasonable kind that Arthur Hutchinson murdered three members of the Laitner family and raped their teenage daughter.

Mr Robin Stewart, QC for the prosecution, said during his closing speech that allegations made by the defendant that he had made love to Miss Nicola Laitner with her consent and that a reporter covering the case was responsible for the killings were "wild and wicked fabrications".

He added: "We do not live in cloud cuckoo land or fairy land. Do we? How many murderers were in that house, how many intruders? Does not common sense drive you irresistibly to the conclusion that it was one person with one knife who committed all the killings and the burglary and so to ask could there be any reasonable doubt that that person is Arthur Hutchinson?"

It was the seventh day of the trial in which Mr Hutchinson, aged 43, of Kelso Grove, Hartlepool, is accused of murdering a Sheffield solicitor, Mr Basil Laitner, aged 59, his wife, Avril, aged 55, a doctor, and their son Richard, aged 28. He is also accused of raping Miss Laitner and with aggravated burglary at their home after a wedding reception for the Laitners' eldest daughter, Suzanne, last October. He denies all charges.

Mr Hutchinson spent a further hour in the witness box under cross-examination yesterday and repeated his denials of involvement in the murders.

He said that he left the family's home in the village suburb of Dore after making love to Miss Laitner and discovered her hysterical and her family murdered when he returned later to collect a coat.

From the witness box on Tuesday he pointed a finger at Mr Michael Barron, a reporter for the *Sunday Mirror*, and accused him of the killings.

Yesterday, Mr Barron, who works in the Newcastle upon Tyne area, went into the witness

box and denied that he was the "Svenali" of the case and said: "It is preposterous rubbish, entirely false."

Mr Barron said he was not in Sheffield on the night indicated and had never met any members of the Laitner family. On the day in question he had been collecting a report about a milkman in Blaydon, near Newcastle. On the Sunday of the killings he had played golf with friends before entertaining neighbours to drinks and supper with his wife in the evening.

Mr Alan Simpson, for the prosecution, asked: "Did you have any part whatever in the Dore murders?"

Mr Barron replied: "No. It is totally preposterous. I cannot deny it vigorously enough."

Mr James Stewart, QC, for the defence, in his closing speech to the jury of six men and six women challenged the credibility of Miss Laitner as a witness.

She was, he said, the linchpin of the Crown's case but added: "What evidence apart from hers connects him to these murders? Although there is plenty of evidence to connect him with the house, we submit there is no satisfactory evidence to connect him with the murders and the prosecution's evidence is consistent with the defence. This man has put forward the case that he was in the house, not killing, stealing or raping, and for the purpose of seeing Nicola Laitner."

The hearing continues today, when the judge will start his summing up.

Mr Michael Barron, who gave evidence yesterday

BBC likely to seek £64 TV fee

by Kenneth Gossling

An increase of 40 per cent in the colour television licence fee, raising it from £46 to £64, is expected to be sought by the BBC next month when it takes its case to the Home Office. It would last for three years and lift the corporation's annual income from £700m to £1,000m.

The "value for money" aspect of the present licence fee is being emphasized in the BBC's own "commercials" where a pile of shiny new pennies and a halfpenny is shown as representing the 12½p a day it costs viewers to receive a wide range of programmes. Ostensibly it is a reminder to the estimated 1,500,000 people who avoid paying any licence fee, costing £60m in lost revenue.

The BBC is making no official comment on its claim, except to dismiss reports that a fee as high as £90 is being sought. "We have not even begun to talk about the new fee, to run from next April, with the Government," it said.

A meeting of the BBC governors early next month is expected to receive the latest report of future financing.

The licence fee rose from £34 three years ago. There are 18,700,000 television licences in force, of which 15,500,000 are on colour.

Last spring a survey by the Consumers' Association showed that viewers would be prepared to pay a licence fee of £75 a year.

LICENCE FEES (COLOUR) IN EUROPE ARE:

| | £ |
|----------------|----|
| Denmark | 75 |
| Finland | 69 |
| Norway | 65 |
| Austria | 62 |
| Sweden | 60 |
| Switzerland | 54 |
| Belgium | 52 |
| United Kingdom | 46 |
| Ireland | 46 |
| France | 39 |
| W Germany | 37 |
| Netherlands | 34 |
| Italy | 33 |

In all but the UK, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, advertising is carried on at least one of the services supported by the licence fee.

Mail-order fruit trees 'look like leftovers'

Many apple and pear trees bought by mail order look like "rejects" or "leftovers from previous years", the Consumers' Association said yesterday.

The report on gardening from *Which?* magazine said the biggest difficulty with mail order fruit trees was "lack of vigour".

"Many of the trees bought during the survey had disproportionately small root systems or spindly, weak shoots. "Many trees had been poorly or inadequately pruned, giving poorly shaped trees."

The cost of a radio at workplace

Investigators for the Performing Rights Society have told Mr Tony Methofer, foreman of a vehicle repair workshop at Christchurch, Dorset, to turn off his radio at work. If he does not and his company fails to buy a licence, costing about £30, for the right to play it, the society will seek a High Court injunction.

His employer, Mr Fred Jesty, admits that he dislikes Mr Methofer's favourite radio, 1, but plans to fight the case.

Mr Marshall Lees, for the Performing Rights Society, said all the money raised in licence fees went to its members, composers, songwriters and publishers. "If we were to exclude employees' radios, we could be taken for a very big ride. All employers could say their radios were privately owned."

Funds to screen diabetics' signs

The chief medical officer of the Department of Health, Dr Donald Acheson, announced yesterday that money has been allocated for screening diabetics likely to be blinded by the disease. He did not disclose the sum.

Dr Acheson was, opening the European Association for the Study of Diabetes meeting in London. His comments came after claims by Dr John Ward the British Medical Association that diabetics in Britain were still going blind because of a lack of screening facilities.

Burnt body identified

A badly burnt and decomposed body of a man found near Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire, on July 16 was identified yesterday as Onkar Jhawar, aged 23, of Lake Avenue, Slough. A petrol can was found near to the body, but police do not know whether it was murder or suicide.

His identity was discovered after his gold-coloured Renault 18 car was found at Deddington four miles away, on Monday.

Merry Men charity van

Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men were left on foot yesterday after their transit van was stolen from a car park near Nottingham Castle.

Nottingham's Robin Hood Society has appealed for the loan of a van so their good works can continue. This year the Society has raised about £900 for handicapped children.

Legion death

Mr Barry Jones, aged 50, a father of eight, died of legionnaires' disease at Maidstone General Hospital, Kent, yesterday. He contracted the disease while on holiday in Majorca.

Sporting executives with cash to spare

By Tony Samways

The European man at the top of the sports world, as hard as he works, and has a great deal to spend on almost everything but cigarettes, which he is in the throes of giving up.

Such are the conclusions of the Third Pan-European Survey, a study of the lifestyles of the business and professional elite in 12 countries, published yesterday by a research marketing group and sponsored by *The Economist*, the *International Herald Tribune*, *Newsweek International*, *Scientific American*, and *Time*.

The survey, which appears

every three years, focuses on male executive wage-earners, averaging about 5 per cent of the population and is based on in-depth interviews with more than 7,000 of the 8,500,000 who qualify.

The "elite universe" as defined by the researchers comprises men aged 25 or over, in non-manual employment with a university degree or equivalent professional qualification. Qualifying annual incomes vary, but the British minimum is £15,000.

The survey shows many more similarities than differences.

More than half, for example, are under 45 years old, have down at least once in the past year, own or manage private investments, and possess at least two cars. Almost half earn £20,000 or more.

Whisky is the favourite drink of 68 per cent, although 86 per cent also drink wine and 67 per cent cherry or port. The British elite, is not the top whisky drinkers (79 per cent). More of its Danish and Swedish colleagues prefer it (84 per cent).

The Swiss are the keenest on sport, although the British and

Irish are the most active golfers and squash players. Practically every executive household has a colour television, and one in 10 a home computer. Almost a fifth own video or computer games, and a quarter video-cassette recorders.

The 34.1 per cent of the British elite who own stocks and shares represent 60 per cent of the British share-owners public, suggesting the persistence of a great concentration of wealth.

Pan-European Survey (available free from Research Services Ltd, Station House, Harrow Road, Wembley, HA9 6DE 01-903 1399).

Gold worth £100,000 missing from Royal Mint

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

The Ministry of Defence detectives are investigating the disappearance of gold worth more than £100,000 from the Royal Mint, one of the most heavily guarded establishments in Britain.

The missing gold represents the third breach in security at the mint in the past two years. Officials would only say that the loss was discovered more than a week ago.

All 9,000 employees are being questioned by detectives trying to find out how the gold was smuggled past the tight security net.

Precautions at the bunker-like site in Llantrisant, Mid-Glamorgan, disparagingly called

"the hole with a mint" by former employees of the old establishment in London, are so tight that no one is allowed to bring money with them to work.

Workers who use the canteen are issued with plastic money. It is understood that about 350 ounces of gold in its raw form are unaccounted for. Most gold coins minted are sovereigns, ranging in price from £50 to £80, depending on the price of gold on the international market.

Last July coins worth about £12,000 from the mint went missing on their way to the United States.

The inquest was adjourned until November 5.

Police are still unable to identify a body, the lower half of which was found wedged under a Rolls-Royce in the West End last Friday.

Dr Iain West, a pathologist, told Westminster Coroner's Court yesterday that he and the Home Office pathologist, Professor Keith Simpson, had

examined the mutilated body but could not give a cause of death.

Det Chief Supt George Ness said passers-by found the body, wrapped in a grey plastic bin-liner and wedged under a car

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THE SDP ASSEMBLY ● Tory and Labour leaders attacked: 'She does not care, he does not dare'

Owen censures Thatcher for 'incompetence' in rallying call to party

Britain had the most incompetent government since 1954, Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, said in his final speech to the party's Annual Conference at Buxton, yesterday. In a hard-hitting address, he labelled Mrs Margaret Thatcher as callous and Mr Neil Kinnock as the most vacuous leader in Labour history.

Dr Owen introduced into the debate on policy and the social market a suggestion for public unit trusts of public assets with shares being distributed to every citizen. He added that that could mean a growing proportion of the equity of large private companies also being transferred to the citizens.

Early in his speech Dr Owen complained about the proportion of air time given to the Alliance and said that the BBC had an obligation in the spirit and wording of its charter to reflect the new realities and balance in British politics.

After thanking his lieutenants in the party, Dr Owen said: "This is not a one-man band. This is a substantial party and it is here to stay but we are here to stay only as long as we can practise what we preach."

Much had been written about his attitude to the Alliance. He was interested in only one thing, that they should win votes, influence and power. A time would come when the country would want to be governed by a political force which understood the benefits and advantages and political strengths of the country if they could only play a full and deeply committed part within the European community.

One was bound to conclude,

looking at their political opponents that Mrs Thatcher did not care and Mr Kinnock did not dare. She did not care about unemployment and in private boasted that no Conservative government had ever lost an election because of unemployment.

Mr Kinnock was perhaps the most vacuous leader in Labour's history. Certainly his song-and-dance act was beginning to wear a little thin and to be shown up for what it was, Dr Owen said.

He continued: "I make a serious and perhaps surprising charge. This government is the most incompetent Tory government since that of Sir Anthony Eden in 1954."

Assembly reporting by Sheila Beardsall, Barbara Day and John Winder

Competence is a critical vote-winning issue. It is as much incompetence that has allowed unemployment to rise to nearly four million as blind adherence to discredited monetarism. Even President Reagan can boast after four years that he has been able to create millions of jobs.

The SDP would never tolerate rising unemployment and was against fatalistic acceptance of unemployment. It would ensure that influence in government was put fully behind active measures to reduce unemployment.

"Here in Britain we might well fight on the slogan 'After eight years of incompetence why not try a little competence?' (applause) Perhaps, too, a little tenderness".

The Government, on its own

yardstick, had a record of starting incompetence and inefficiency. It had succeeded in doing the opposite of what it intended in taxation: curbing spending and reducing tax. Taxes up must mean Tory competence down. On the touchstone of its economic policy the government had failed to meet its public service borrowing requirement targets.

The supposed jewel in the Conservative crown, privatization, was increasingly revealed as having the glitter of costume jewellery, just paste. "Those great financial wizards could not even flog the nation's assets competently".

On the miners' strike he said he wanted the country to hear the SDP indictment of the pot pourri of insensitivity and ineptness by the Government in handling the dispute - and that was not just the National Coal Board.

He again asked why the Government had not taken up the proposal for an NCB Industry Ltd to create new jobs in the mining areas. That would have outflanked the militant miners and shown genuine concern for the moderates.

On defence he said that if people wanted to start the process of removing nuclear weapons and having no first-use capability, they would have to be prepared to spend a little more on conventional weapons.

Turning to proportional representation, he said members should not be ashamed of the results of the recent elections in Israel where that system of voting was used.

"Mrs Thatcher would be a better



Dr David Owen giving his speech, watched by Mrs Shirley Williams (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Prime Minister and this would be a better government and this country would be in better shape if she was able to speak for more than 30 per cent of the people of this country".

The SDP was not aping the

Conservative Party or the Labour Party, he added.

"This is a new concept in British politics. Be proud of it. Be proud of our party. Be proud of the Alliance. You will be surprised, against the

background of economic decline, how attractive, how powerful, that message will be to the British people".

His speech was greeted by a two-minute standing ovation.

Plastic bullets vote defies leadership

An immediate halt to the use of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland became SDP policy when members voted against the advice of the party's official policymakers.

An emergency motion moved by Mr Pat Corcoran, chairman of the SDP Friends of Ireland, called for the weapon's use to be suspended, and a full inquiry held on whether plastic bullets should be used for crowd control.

He argued that 12 people had died, 40 had been seriously injured and four had suffered severe brain damage in the province from plastic bullet wounds.

Mr Robert MacLennan, SDP MP for Calthorpe and Sutherland, and the party's official spokesman on Northern Ireland, urged him to withdraw the motion. But Mr Corcoran told the assembly: "The whole point of the motion is to show the nationalist community in Northern Ireland that we do care and are interested and do not want to hide behind another commission or another inquiry".

Mrs Shirley Williams, President of the Council, called for a show of hands and declared the motion carried by a small majority, although many members said afterwards they believed it had been substantially carried.

Mr MacLennan said that to suspend the use of plastic bullets immediately, without giving any alternative method of protection to the security forces, would not be responsible.

He said the policy committee would press Mr Douglas Hurd, the new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to set up a full, far-ranging and independent inquiry into the use of plastic bullets.

Mr Corcoran said: "I have great respect for the RUC and sympathize with them. But to send them into hostile areas with weapons that can maim or kill is in my view a madness. Every plastic bullet fired, every death, alienates an already alienated community."

Mr Philip Banfield, Bedfordshire, opposed the motion. He said: "So long as the enemy continues to use real bricks, petrol bombs and bullets, I am not against the RUC using these weapons."

Mr Browley Davenport, North-east Yorkshire, said he did not believe that security in the province would be dramatically affected by stopping the use of plastic bullets.

"I urge the SDP to focus its mind on a total, complete and final British disengagement from Northern Ireland," he said.

Fuel charge system condemned

Conference passed a resolution endorsing the Alliance's commitment to abolish standing charges for gas, electricity, water and sewerage after it had been moved by Mr John Cartwright, MP for Woolwich, on behalf of the policy committee.

The motion attracted opposition however from Mr Stephen Browning, of Leeds, who said he was employed in the gas industry. He said the money from the charges was used to finance maintenance and emergency services not directly charged to the consumer.

Mr Cartwright said that standing charges were unfair, underhand, illogical and inefficient. They imposed a flat rate burden which fell most heavily on those least able to bear it and were underhand because they represented an indirect tax levied on the population by the nationalized industries on behalf of the government.

They were illogical because they were not applied to any other goods and services and inefficient because they failed to encourage energy conservation.

The minor concessions which the Government had made to limit standing charges to half of any fuel bill were inadequate and there was evidence that some pensioners were over economising on fuel to keep their bills down below the level for which they could get a rebate.

Large consumers of fuel on low incomes who would lose out as a result of the change should be helped through improvements in the social security system.

Mr Browning said that the small user customer was not necessarily poor and the large customer was not necessarily rich.

Labour had been effectively invalidated out of the possibility of government in 1987 or 1988 by what the Alliance had done in the general election, Mr Alan Watson, president-elect of the Liberal Party, told the conference.

June, 1983, had marked the collapse of the two-party system as they had known it since 1945, he said.

That system assumed a national pendulum swing between Labour and Conservative. That inevitability had gone, replaced by a battlefield in which the Alliance was the main challenger to the Conservative Party in more than 300 seats.

The Liberals were not interested in the Alliance being a force of protest, even less a cosy band of friends, he said. "Our clear radical purpose is to change British politics for good, to free British political life from the servitude of class-based parties, to let the light and sunshine in, to take from the sagging shoulders of Britain's economy the burden of class confrontation and division", he said.

Williams tells of attack on miner

Mr Tony Ellis, the working miner from Little Houghton, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, who attended the assembly and addressed a fringe meeting, had returned home at 6am yesterday to find his wife in shock after a brick had been thrown through their window. Mrs Shirley Williams, President of the party, told members during her closing remarks.

What happened to Mr Ellis could happen to all of us," she said.

These differences will become all the more serious if the Liberals show themselves next week to be out of step with SDP thinking on critical policy issues.

It is quite possible that the prospects for the Alliance will be influenced more by what the Liberals decide on Bournemouth than by anything that has happened this week in Buxton.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

With his speech at Buxton yesterday, Dr David Owen finally won full acceptance as leader of the SDP. That was not the case at Salford a year ago.

Then he was the newly elected leader, but one glance at the platform was enough to reveal that the party was still divided between Owenites and Jenkinsites. They would applaud together only to express their appreciation to the tea lady.

It was different this week. Dr Owen came to Buxton with an enhanced reputation from his performance over the past year, and his position had been further strengthened. In his speech yesterday he managed to establish the right tone in relation both to his party and the Government.

He can now afford to take his authority as leader for granted. So he was able both to stimulate his party with new ideas and to emphasize that it was free to reject them if they made no sense, which may be a necessary precaution.

In his attacks on the Government he was careful in his selection of the battleground. An Opposition party leader who agrees with Mrs Thatcher's economic objectives is sensible to attack her performance as well as her insensitivity. Any government that has turned the banana skin into a political cliché cannot be invulnerable to attack on grounds of competence.

The assets are clear. So are the liabilities

"This Government," he proclaimed, "is the most incompetent Tory government since Sir Anthony Eden's in 1954." - though Dr Owen might have improved his own reputation for competence if he had remembered that Sir Anthony did not become Prime Minister until the following year.

Dr Owen's speech provided altogether a fitting finale to a conference in which the Social Democrats appeared to be a more mature, realistic and substantial party than a year ago. But does this mean that the lesson of Buxton is that the SDP is now on its way?

The assets are clear. It is not the home for cranks and single-issue lobbyists that it could so easily have become. It has the opposition party leader who looks at this stage best fitted to be prime minister. It is groping towards a central theme with its talk of a social market economy - though one cannot emphasize too strongly that more thinking needs to be done before that proposition carries conviction.

But one should not be so overcome by the pleasing air of Buxton that one forgets SDP's liabilities. It has still to make a substantial impact on the country. The opinion polls do not suggest that the breakthrough is imminent, though we have still to see the effects of all the publicity from this conference.

The turnout at Buxton was encouraging, but the party is still thinly-spread. It has lost members and a great deal will depend upon the recruitment drive.

Will the Liberals march in step?

No matter how serious and responsible a party may seem at the centre of its discussion of national issues it cannot have political clout unless it has a good many active members around the country. So long as the SDP suffers from this deficiency it will remain at a disadvantage in its dealings with the Liberals.

The relationship with the Liberals remains central to the SDP's prospects. There is not the slightest indication that the Social Democrats could ever gain power by themselves. The references to the Liberals were generally warmer and less defensive than they have often been at SDP gatherings in the past, but it would be facile to suppose that the difficulties in the relationship have been overcome.

Behind the carefully-phrased expressions of approval for the Alliance there remain deep and unrequited differences as to what form it should take in the future - differences among Social Democrats and between the dominant tendency in the SDP and the majority of Liberals.

These differences will become all the more serious if the Liberals show themselves next week to be out of step with SDP thinking on critical policy issues.

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Future car to be a tear-drop style fuel saver

Considerable changes are forecast for the design of cars and aircraft. The greatest transformation will be under the bonnet, and in the handling of vehicles, the British Association was told at Norwich yesterday.

Some experts predict very futuristic shapes, but other designers believe the silhouettes of vehicles will not change greatly.

However, the emphasis will be on obtaining more miles to the gallon, according to Mr John Coplin, director of design for Rolls-Royce, and Mr Dairmuid Downes, managing director of the Ricardo group of consulting engineers.

Within 15 years, every car will have "a synthetic electronic spring", suspension, Mr Tony Rudd, of Lotus Cars, said.

This would be similar to the basic principle adopted for racing cars replacing the road spring, shock absorbers and anti-roll with a hydraulic ram powered by a small engine-driven pump. Electronic sensors feed signals from the ram into a computer, analysing effects such as bumps in the road, roll due to cornering, or pitch due to braking. The computer then decides what action to take.

Mr Rudd said the system meant at least a 10 per cent improvement in cornering and power, and 25 per cent improvement in the comfort of the ride on a car which would already be regarded as of good design.

Other innovations, such as ground effect used to triple the cornering power of a racing car,

Reports by Pearce Wright and Thomson Prentice

should be exploited to increase safety and stability, he said.

He advised against future cars with the engine, transmission and steering systems in one unit at one end of the car, saying that it would be more simple, but less safe.

Mr Rudd said it had long been established that the free-falling drop of water was the ideal aerodynamic shape. Skin friction and other problems could result in conditions where a sawn-off tail did not produce any more total resistance than a long streamlined one.

Several manufacturers have built flush-fitting windows which could drop down into the door for ventilation. He expected that one of the big companies would produce a recognizable tear-drop car design, with flush glass and sawn-off tail. After 1990 cars would be seen with smooth underpans, constructed to prevent air getting underneath to create lift, with flush glass and the beginnings of the tear-drop design.

Such vehicles would be 60mm lower than today's equivalent, with the bonnet-line merging into the windscreen, no radiator grill or visible duct, no mirrors or screen wipers, flush glass and closely-cowled wheels. There would be greater use of synthetic materials such as carbon fibres to produce bodies without chassis.

However, he said the average



Mr John Coplin of Rolls-Royce demonstrates a fast-revolving propeller design for the future, which the company hopes to incorporate in quieter, simpler and more efficient aircraft engines

owner was an individualist, and might mean the difficulty of adding personal touches to the car. The owner would be denied the batteries of foglights, spoilers, window cowls, and would have to fall back on wheel trims. It would not be possible to fit over-sized tyres. Car seats would gradually change from the kitchen-chair, disguised as a club-armchair style to a fairly upright hammock style. This would incorporate automatic adjustment for the back, particularly to support the lumbar area, first by a pneumatic control and, in the more advanced stage, by electronic control. A two-level visual display unit would replace the instrument panel, with one level connected to a television scanner in place of rear

Two key issues for new Government Looking for profits from Libya pact

After tomorrow's general election King Hassan, who still exerts ultimate authority in Morocco, is expected to form a new government. In the second of a two-part series Geoffrey Morrison, Rabat Correspondent, looks at some of the problems it will face.

Morocco's new government will come to power at a time of economic difficulties and when foreign policy has entered uncharted waters with the unexpected "union" with Libya.

The eight-year war between Moroccan forces and Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas remains the dominant factor in political life; and whatever the complexion of the new government, Morocco will continue its long and costly Sahara

Polisario's Saharan Arab Democratic Republic. Since then Morocco has been surrounded on its land frontiers by countries which are hostile to it on the Sahara issue.

The massive referendum support for the union treaty reflected its genuine popularity here. In official public theory the link with Libya is popular because it is a step towards Arab unity and the building of the Maghreb. But most Moroccans say they also favour the move because they believe it will help the country to retain the Sahara. That the Algerians have reacted angrily to it is, for most Moroccans, icing on the cake.

The antipathy between Morocco and Algeria runs deep and dates back to a brief but bloody war in 1963. Moroccans see the Algerian Government as the evil genius which has used the Polisario as "mercenaries" to prevent Morocco controlling the Sahara which it claims on historical and legal grounds.

Though the Moroccans have made military gains in recent months, extending their sand-wall defences, it is hard to see an end to the conflict so long as Algeria continues to support the Polisario; and at present there is no sign of any sort of accommodation between Rabat and Algiers.

The alliance with the unpredictable Libyan leader is clearly a high-risk policy for Rabat in diplomatic terms and few observers pretend to be able to predict its likely results. While King Hassan will



King Hassan: Setting out on a high-risk policy.

continue to make all the main foreign policy decisions, the new government will certainly try to put some economic flesh on the bones of the Libya-Morocco union. Whatever the diplomatic outcome of the affair, there is certainly scope for economic cooperation with Libya, which has oil wealth but imports labour and a wide range of basic industrial goods and food products, which Morocco could easily supply.

Outside the Libyan Embassy there are long queues of unemployed Moroccans hoping to see their fortune in Colonel Gaddafi's country. After five years of poor rainfall, large increases in oil prices, and a flat world market for its chief commodity export, phosphates, the Moroccan economy can do with all the help it can get.

Total foreign indebtedness, which stood at \$1.6 billion (£1.2bn) in 1976, is today around \$11 billion, forcing the country into a series of debt rescheduling talks and an austerity programme which has

meant fewer new government jobs, and a curtailment of development.

Barring a major breakthrough by the socialists and communists, who want a drastic change of direction in policy, the new government will probably press on with the recent trend of encouraging foreign investment and generally liberalizing the economy.

The important business of exporting tinned fish and vegetables, previously carried on by a state corporation, has been privatized and the telephone service, previously part of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, has been turned into a self-accounting state corporation.

Though he leaves economic management to his ministers the King spelled out his own economic philosophy very clearly last month when he announced that private operators are to be allowed to compete with the municipal authorities in providing transport in Casablanca, Morocco's largest city and commercial capital.

"We are living, without noticing it, in a major contradiction," he said. Moroccans could read in their newspapers a wide variety of opinions because of the country's multi-party system, "while in everyday life one sees the state in every sector. We must choose either liberty and thus open the way for competition, or the suppression of that liberty with a sole political party and an omnipresent state."

Concluded

'Wolf rats to inherit the earth'

Rabbits, rats, seagulls and mice will inherit the earth after man is extinct. Rats, the size of wolves, will be the predators, along with killer baboons. Masters of the deep will be whale-sized penguins.

That picture of the world in up to 50 million years was painted by Mr Douglas Dixon, a writer, who argued that most of today's creatures, including man, will have vanished.

Hansard said the picture was drawn through overpopulation, misuse of resources, pollution and other factors. Other life would continue to evolve, though.

The rhinoceros, tiger and whale might vanish before man did. Domestic animals, such as horses, sheep and dogs, would also disappear.

But rabbits might grow to the size of deer, and become rabbits. There could be man-eating dinosaurs, mice the size of horses, and new species such as the giant sloth, Mr Dixon said. There would be no master species taking the place of man, however. "Nature won't make that mistake again," Mr Dixon said.

Mr George Medley, director of the World Wildlife Fund in Britain, pointed to today's destruction of the tropical rainforests, the slaughter of sea creatures, the loss of rivers and the overexploitation of the seas' resources.

Routine work as key to police detection success

Most of society's cherished beliefs about the police were myths, Dr Guy Cumberbatch, a researcher, said. The evidence was that the police represented symbols of effectiveness rather than providing the reality of it.

One reason for the apparent ineffectiveness of the police, he said, was that most crimes were likely to be solved by routine investigation - or they were unlikely to be solved at all. Fortunately, the clear-up rate for serious crime tended to be high. More than 85 per cent of crimes known to the police were discovered by the public, who provided most of the crucial information.

Public and police alike seemed to want to believe that the police possessed special skills in the war on crime. Dr Cumberbatch, a member of the communications research group in the applied psychology division of Aston University, said. A common theme in police drama was that of the uncooperative criminal who was finally

Doubt over some forms of therapy

Doctors can learn from some of the methods used in complementary medicine but are right to be suspicious of others, according to an inquiry set up by the British Medical Association.

Many of the therapies examined by the BMA emphasizing the importance of spending more time with patients, showing them more compassion, speaking to them with more authority, and teaching them so that they literally feel themselves to be "in good hands".

However, the association's board of inquiry, which has still to publish its findings, is likely to reject the "philosophical basis" of some other therapies. The BMA is particularly unimpressed by reflexology, which involves the treatment of organs by reflex zones on the feet.

Dr John Dawson, head of the association's professional, scientific and international affairs division, said: "It is unlikely that the working party will be able to give great credibility to the ideas that underlie reflexology and the use of the feet. Indeed I think it is likely that we shall positively reject the philosophical basis of this therapy."

The BMA appears to have more sympathy with the practice of acupuncture, which involves manual, low-level treatment of the neck and back to relieve pain.

"tricked" into confession, he said. "For example, Columbo needles; he goes back time and time again with requests for clarification on something that bothers him. Supt Barlow, in *Softly Softly*, is at his best when playing the dual role of hard man-soft man, alternatively frightening and then befriending his suspect."

Confessions demonstrated contrition in the offender, which was important in justice. Moreover, they were psychologically important for police officers in confirming their judgement of guilt and in highlighting the detective's skill.

Dr Cumberbatch argued that modern police forces have emphasized fast response times since motorized vehicles and personal radios became generally available. The possibility of public complaint meant that police officers were more likely to arrive quickly at incidents which still contained "considerable amounts of energy" and violence potential.

Cipher methods needed to protect data

The need to extend to the high "direct" the code cipher methods used by diplomats and the military for secret messages was outlined yesterday by Professor Fred Piper, head of mathematics at Westfield College, London University.

He said the man in the street had been increasingly aware of the "information relating to him being communicated between various data banks."

Banks now transferred exceedingly large amounts of money by computers and it was, of course, crucial that they secured those transactions against alterations by third parties.

He said these were just two examples of the growing need for protection of data.

High speed computers had "revolutionized the design of cipher systems. Codes which were almost unbreakable in the past were now broken in a few seconds."

Hence the mathematical and statistical knowledge needed to design "good" cipher systems had greatly increased.

Professor Piper said that, on occasions, the user of a cipher system wanted messages to remain secret for a long time. But the design of the system might also require it to be used for many years.

It was therefore not sufficient to know that a system was secure today; it was also necessary to know it would remain secure for many years.

Neutrinos spark astronomers' excitement

New evidence has been assembled by astronomers on what is sometimes regarded as the biggest question facing science: what will be the fate of the universe?

Will the universe go on expanding with the galaxies getting further apart? Or will it come to a sudden end, collapsing back to its original ball?

The reason why the secret lies hidden in the events that happened in a few moments 14,000 million years ago was explained by Dr John Barrow, of Sussex University.

The new information, which is causing more than a ripple of excitement through the world of astronomy, concerns the influence of clouds of material throughout the universe that are impossible for astronomers to see.

The material which exists in such colossal quantities to influence the fate of the universe is not formed of atoms. It consists of elementary particles.

Although elementary particles are not a new discovery to physicists, they are causing an upheaval in the branch of astronomy trying to unravel the grand design.

The particular culprit causing confusion is the elusive member of the elementary particle family, the neutrino.

Neutrinos were of marginal interest because they were thought to have no mass. Their importance has been thrust on astronomers through a controversy among physicists which broke out four years ago.

It was then that a Soviet group of scientists produced evidence that neutrinos did have mass.

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Rama Rao men parade for governor after yet another delay in vote

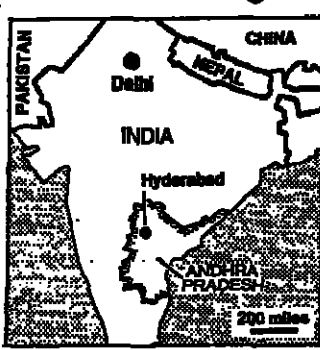
From Michael Hamlyn
Hyderabad

The political crisis in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh yesterday took a turn which would be ludicrous, if it were not so potentially tragic for the state of democracy in India.

On the second day of the session of the Legislative Assembly, called to enable the new Chief Minister, Mr Nandendra Bhaskara Rao, to prove his majority with a vote of confidence, his supporters started such a row that the session was adjourned by the Speaker without any business being conducted.

As soon as the Speaker, Mr M. Baga Reddy, appeared to open the session, having adjourned it from the previous day because of the pandemonium created then by the Chief Minister's supporters, the same hullabaloo broke out again. This time members of Mr Bhaskara Rao's Cabinet were seen to wrench the microphones from their moorings on their desks and twist them round their heads like lassos.

Mr Baga Reddy, a prominent member of Mrs Indira Gandhi's Congress Party, adjourned the session, reconvened it a few minutes later, then readjusted it until today. Despite the fact that he has powers - and a staff of marshals to enforce them - to remove rowdy members from the chamber, he chose to give



the new administration at least one more day to try to get a majority vote.

Immediately after the session ended, Mr N. T. Rama Rao, the film actor and former Chief Minister, led three busloads of members of the Legislative Assembly supporting him to Raj Bhavan, the Governor's mansion.

He and leaders of other local parties supporting him, backed by eight national leaders of opposition parties, persuaded the Governor to inspect the number of deputies in Mr Rama Rao's camp. They said they would not go away until he did.

Accordingly, Dr Shankar Deyal Sharma, the Governor, walked slowly between two lines of pro-Rama Rao deputies and greeted them solemnly. A spokesman for Mr Rama Rao's party said there were 162 of them. According to those of us

who counted them in at the gate there were 160, but the number was certainly above the 147 needed to give a majority in the 293-member assembly.

The situation in Andhra Pradesh at present is that the Chief Minister, who was appointed when he simply showed a list of names of deputies he claimed were his supporters, is holding on to power and using very trick in the book to avoid a test of strength on the floor of the House.

The Governor, who appointed him has been dismissed by Mrs Gandhi, but the new Governor appointed by her, despite the evidence paraded before him, is unable to force Mr Bhaskara Rao out of office and reappoint Mr Rama Rao.

Mrs Gandhi is now suffering a considerable propaganda backlash, as her hand is seen in everything that is happening here. She is plainly upsetting the sentiments of southern regionalists in a lay state in an election year.

After the meeting at Raj Bhavan yesterday, Mr Rama Rao paraded through the streets of Hyderabad leading his deputies in convoy and receiving the cheers of tens of thousands of people lining the streets in areas that were not still under curfew, after renewed communal disturbances on Tuesday.



Chileans defy Pinochet hard line

President Pinochet saluting from an open car in a Santiago parade on Tuesday marking the eleventh anniversary of the coup that brought him to power in Chile. Most of the public lining the streets had been banned by the Government.

In a hardline speech later, the President discounted any hope of a return to democracy before 1989.

But within hours of the speech, demonstrators responded with harricades of stones and burning tyres in the poorest districts of Santiago.

Meanwhile a British Labour Party delegation in Santiago has expressed disappointment to Señor Jaime Le Del-Valle, the Foreign Minister, for Chile's failure to move towards democracy.

Peking hint of purge at top to back up anti-leftist policies

From David Bonavia, Peking

Contradictory reports are circulating here about impending changes in the Chinese Government to follow the celebration of National Day on October 1.

Mr Hu Yaobang, the Secretary-General of the Communist Party, told a Japanese reporter last week that there would be a plenary session of the Central Committee in October. However, this was subsequently denied, then reconfirmed with the correction that there would be a "meeting of national representatives", perhaps an extended meeting of the Central Committee, in preparation for a full party congress next year.

Apart from government changes which have little political significance, high-level meetings are likely to be convened over the next few months to lead weight to the present purge of leftists.

The main changes forecast by informed sources last month are the removal of Mrs Chen Muhua from her post as Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, which could mean she would be dropped from her present alternate membership of the policy-making Politburo. She is an unpopular figure in the leadership.

In addition, it was forecast that Mr Wu Xueqian would be replaced as Foreign Minister, though he is felt to have performed well, and appointed to a senior position in the party. Other less senior officials were also expected to be reshuffled.

The amount of detail provided on the proposed changes last month indicates that they were leaked to the foreign diplomatic and press corps by circles unfavourable to the reshuffle.

That in itself would be enough to cause a clash behind the scenes and bring in other contentious issues, such as the drive against leftists in the provinces and the campaign to

"correct" political thinking in the armed forces.

Among the various aspects of the present anti-leftist campaign is the demand that everyone must repudiate the Cultural Revolution masterminded by Mao Tse-tung, and that all traces of factional conflict should be eliminated in the party and Army.

This is a tall order, considering that factionalism is the normal mode of Chinese political life. Nowadays nobody is permitted to claim that his or her faction was "in the right" in the Cultural Revolution, since all factionalism is now denounced as wrong.

The present leadership is so anxious to heal the wounds of the Cultural Revolution that it has called for a big effort to track down the owners of property confiscated during the 10-year upheaval and return it to them.

Property confiscated by the Red Guards from the homes of people called "bourgeois" or "revisionist" includes heirlooms, porcelain, scrolls, clothing, books, records, furniture and other items.

Numerous cadres who joined the party in the decade of the Cultural Revolution are held to be stubborn and unrepentant leftists, and they are being expelled from it in their thousands.



Wu Xueqian: Tipped to lose Cabinet post.

North Korea seeking to lure Western technology

From David Watts, Tokyo

North Korea is to permit joint ventures with foreign companies in an attempt to open the country to the world and bring in modern technology.

In the first instance, the Government is seeking to open up construction, transport, tourism and technology-based industries to foreign capital and ideas. It is expected that the North may start by encouraging Western tourism.

Since the Rangoon bombing, North Korea is arguably the most geographically and diplomatically isolated country in the world. The incident horrified even the few friends it could count, notably the Soviet Union and China.

It appears that it is the Chinese concept of the "three modernizations" which has inspired the cadres of Pyongyang. It is understood that North Koreans have visited some of China's special development areas and been impressed by what they saw. When Mr Kim Yong Nam, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, visited China in July he praised development programmes.

Mr Kim became Foreign Minister after the Rangoon bombing - which killed four South Korean Cabinet ministers - when it became clear that the North must change tack. Mr Kim is said to be relatively sophisticated by North Korean

standards, having been ambassador to several socialist countries, and he appears to be one of the figures behind the planned liberalization.

China has urged this policy on the North and sought American help because it fears that, if the North Korean economy falls any further behind the South, President Kim Il Sung or his son, Mr Kim Jong Il, may be tempted to start a war to reunify Korea before the death of the elder Kim.

The economy of North Korea has only about a quarter the output of South Korea's and it is falling further behind every year. The North's military machine, however, is superior, but even that edge would be lost as the buoyant South Korean economy provides more money for weapons and personnel.

This the Government hopes to rectify by opening up to Western and Japanese money and technology. But the prospects are not encouraging. When North Korea attempted such a leap forward in the early 1970s, it ended in a disaster from which the country's foreign exchange position has not recovered.

It is estimated that the North owes about \$3bn (£2.3bn), most of which has been rescheduled at least twice. Its debts to Japan, perhaps the brightest prospect for foreign investment, have been rescheduled three times and are still substantial.

Australian fears grow for Anzus

From Tony Dubouche
Melbourne

Australia is becoming increasingly concerned at the stand being taken by New Zealand on the Anzus alliance with the United States, and the New Zealand Labour Party conference's decision to call on the government to withdraw from the alliance.

The Labour Party in Canberra is more concerned about the New Zealand decision from a domestic political point of view than from a defence standpoint.

Canberra is confident that the bilateral relationship with Washington is sound and could withstand a withdrawal from the alliance by New Zealand. The worry is that the left wing of the Australian Labour Party will take comfort from the New Zealand decision at the weekend, which has yet to be accepted by Wellington, and try to promote a similar move in Australia.

The view in Canberra is that the next move on Anzus is up to the Americans. Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, has already made Australia's views clear to his New Zealand counterpart.

Mr Gordon Scholes, the Minister for Defence, reflected the official Australian view on Monday when he said that the strength of the Anzus alliance "is that it has three partners with a long understanding of each other".

Canberra ducks rain forest row

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne

Australia will not nominate the Daintree rain forest, in the far north of Queensland, for the World Heritage list without the cooperation of the Queensland State Government, thereby avoiding a row over states' rights.

Mr Barry Cohen, the Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment, announced the decision yesterday despite a report by the Australian Heritage Commission that the rain forests of Queensland met the four main requirements for listing.

The Federal Government has been urged to make a similar intervention over Daintree to the one it made over the Gordon-below-Franklin dam in Tasmania last year.

However, Daintree is different. The area in Tasmania where the dam was planned was already on the world heritage list. The Daintree rain forest would have to be listed before Canberra could intervene under existing legislation.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, has written to Sir John Bjelke-Petersen, the Queensland Premier, offering the state \$A1m (about £630,000) over three years for a management project which would examine roads through the area, and the impact of tourism, as part of a plan to protect the area.

A new benefit for some long-term sick and disabled people.

Our leaflet explains who's eligible.

From November 29th 1984 some long-term sick and disabled people will be able to claim a new benefit if they are unable to work and don't qualify for Sickness or Invalidity Benefit.

The new benefit is called Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA for short), and will be worth £21.50 a week, tax free.

It does not depend on National Insurance contributions, and doesn't involve a means test.

SDA replaces Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension (NCIP) and Housewives' Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension (HNCIP).

Everyone who already gets NCIP or HNCIP will be transferred to SDA automatically in November 1984.

The main difference between SDA and the present benefits is that married women will be able to claim SDA even if they are able to carry out normal household duties.

Severe Disablement Allowance

People who have been incapable of work since before their 20th birthday can qualify for SDA simply on that basis. Those who become incapable of work later in life must also be severely disabled to qualify.

People aged 50 or over and those aged 16 to 34 can get SDA from November 1984. Those aged 35 to 49 can't get SDA until November 1985, but should claim NCIP or HNCIP before 29th November if they are eligible.

To find out more just send the coupon to: DHSS Leaflets Unit, P.O. Box 21, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AY.

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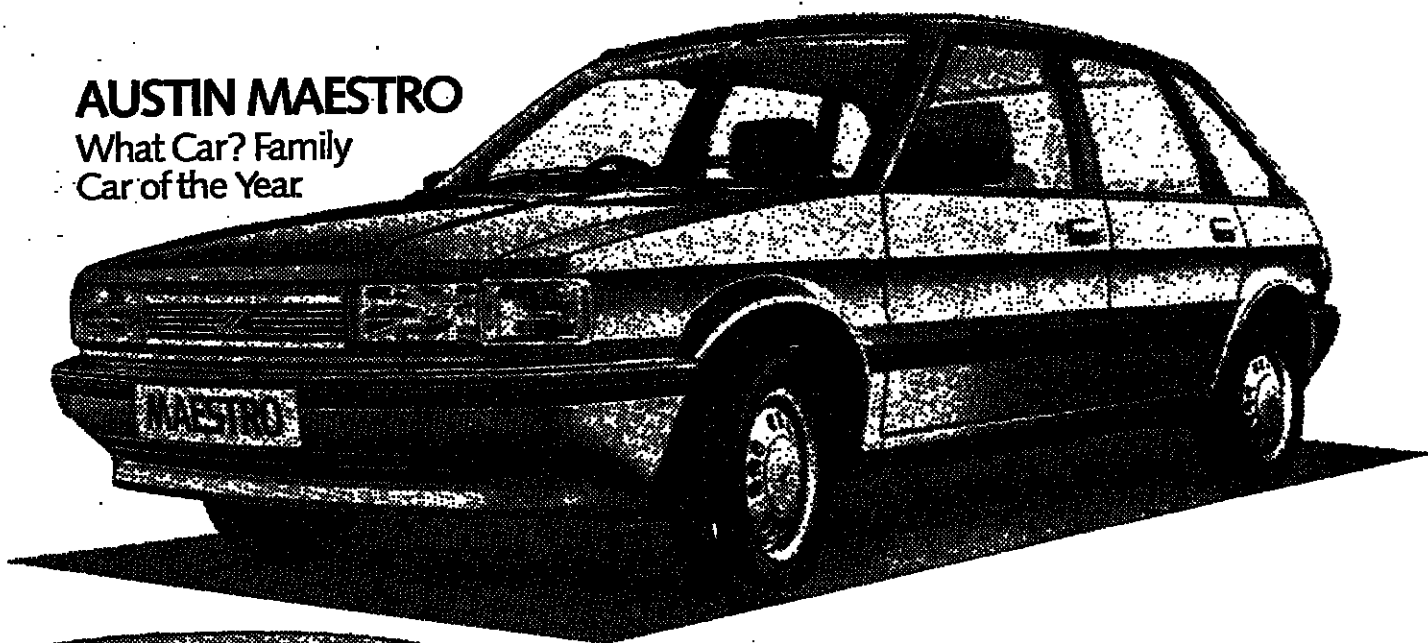
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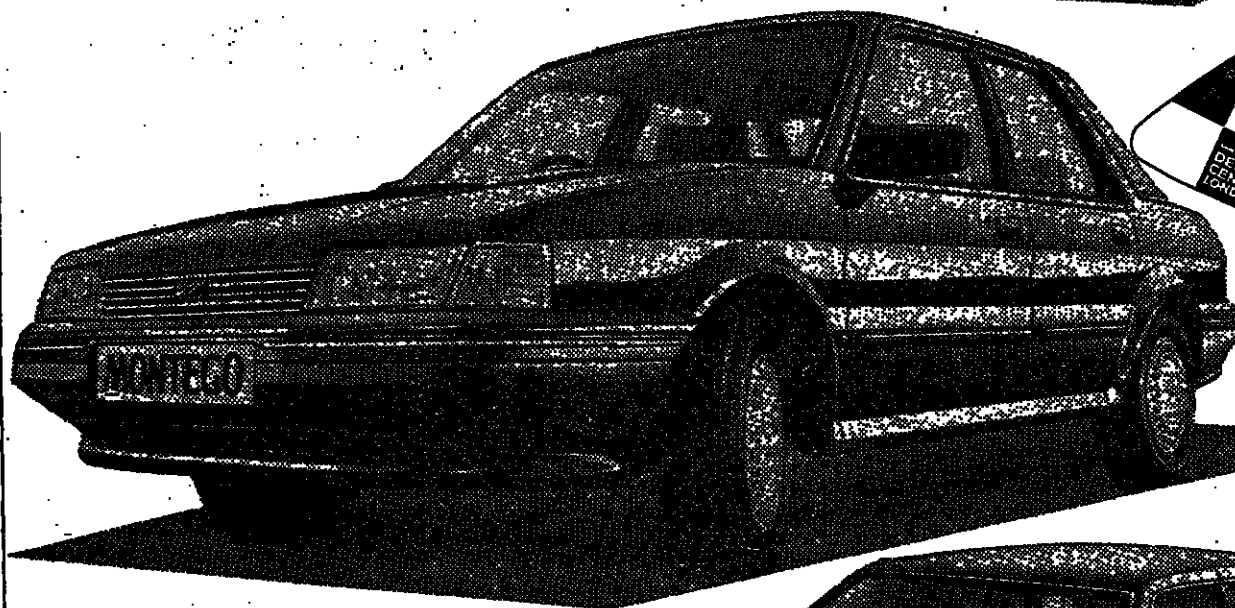


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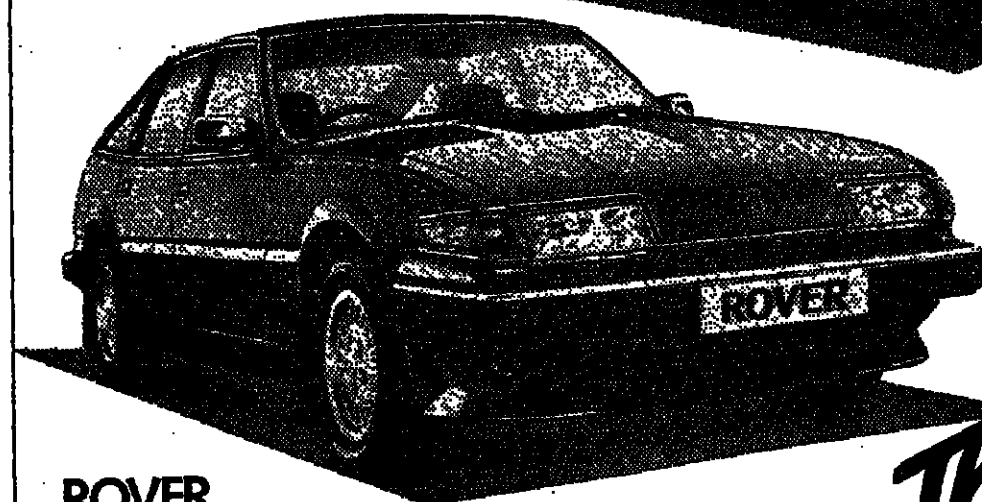
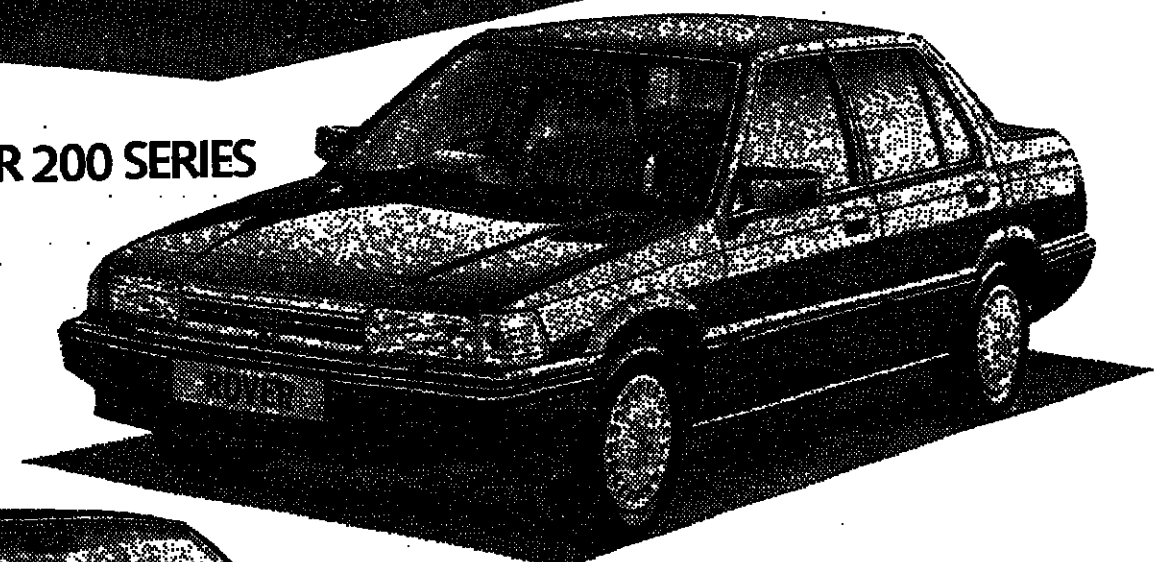


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FROM
AUSTIN ROVER

The French Budget

Petrol, phone calls to rise next year

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A budget of continuing economic rigour, which reduces direct taxes while increasing indirect taxes and imposing the tightest squeeze on government spending in more than a decade, was approved by the French Cabinet yesterday.

As already announced, income tax is to be cut by 5 per cent across the board, while the exceptional 1 per cent social security levy on taxable income, introduced 18 months ago, is to be abolished. Those two measures will provide savings for tax-payers of 23bn francs (£2.75bn).

A further 10bn francs is to be cut from corporate tax by reducing by 10 per cent the special *taxe professionnelle* paid by companies to local authorities on their payrolls.

The Government claims that these measures, combined with less important cuts in other taxes and levies, fulfils President Mitterrand's promise to reduce the burden of compulsory taxes and levies by one percentage point next year. Taxes and levies have risen steadily over the last decade and now account for 44.7 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

At the same time the Government plans to introduce a sharp increase in the price of oil products next year, in order to increase its revenue by an estimated 14bn francs. That will almost certainly mean another big rise in petrol prices. Charges for telephone calls, postal services, and other public services are also due to go up.

The budget for 1985 has been built round the twin imperatives of reducing taxes in accordance with Mitterrand's promises, and of keeping the budget deficit to 3 per cent of GDP. That is likely to be extremely difficult to achieve, particularly in view of the Government's assumption of a 4.5 per cent inflation rate next year.

The 3 per cent budget deficit target was overshoot last year and looks as if it will be even more seriously overshoot this year. Inflation, which had been due to be cut to 5 per cent this year, now looks as if it will be nearer 7 per cent, after a 9 per cent inflation rate last year.

What is particularly worrying for the Government is that the

inflation differential with West Germany, France's main trading partner, is increasing.

Government spending is due to rise by only 6 per cent in money terms next year to a total of 995bn francs. For the first time in more than a decade, government spending will be rising more slowly than GDP, which is expected to grow by 7.5 per cent. In 1982, the first full year after the Socialists came to power, government spending went up by a staggering 27 per cent.

The budget is based on a real growth of 1.3 per cent this year, and less than 1 per cent last year.

Big cuts are planned in government running and personnel costs. More than 5,000 Civil Service jobs are to be

shed. But priority is being given to education and vocational training, in which nearly 2,300 new jobs are to be created, and to industry and research, where government spending is to increase by 24 per cent.

Priority is also to be given to the fight against crime - another "hot" political issue. M. Roland Dumas, the government spokesman, said, that the number of military police was to be increased by 350.

M. Pierre Berégovoy, the new Finance Minister, described the budget as one of economic purification, modernization, and also of manpower training. "It should enable us to win the battle of exportation, and is designed to free initiative and lighten the tax burden of businesses and families."



Rifaat Assad: Left in a hurry for Geneva.

Talkative general holds his tongue

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

General Mustafa Tlas, the Syrian Defence Minister - and since Tuesday one of the most outspoken men in the middle East - was reached by telephone in Damascus yesterday.

Did he have anything to say, he was asked about his interview in *Der Spiegel* Magazine in which he claimed that President Assad's brothers Rifaat was *Persona non grata* in Syria? The poetry-loving general, who suggested that anyone who opposed President Assad would be "shorter by a head", was remarkably unforthcoming. He had no comment of any kind, he replied, "in any way".

His reticence may have sprung from a more recent statement by Rifaat himself, still comfortably ensconced in Geneva, whose official spokesman announced ominously that Rifaat - one of Syria's three Vice-Presidents - "will soon return to Syria and take up his national responsibilities at the side of the President of the republic, Hafez al-Assad". All of which was prompted both by the Syrians and the Lebanese to ask themselves whether perhaps the general's own head measurements may soon be in doubt.

In Lebanon, where 40,000 of General Tlas's troops are still serving but where speech is somewhat freer than in Damascus, the question of the Syrian succession - and the general's role in it - is fast becoming an obsessive subject of conversation almost as absorbing as *Dallas*, the slightly prestigious family struggle now being played out with Arabic subtleties on Beirut television.

The story so far, of course, is that President Assad, in an attempt to choose a successor during a period of ill-health, created three Vice-Presidents, one of them a senior Baath Party official, another the Foreign Minister, and the third his own brother, Rifaat. Rifaat's "Special Forces" tanks were seen earlier this year on an apparent attempt to establish his power as a first Vice-President. But President Assad sent the tanks back to barracks.

Rifaat was then suddenly dispatched for talks in Moscow, whence he subsequently departed with equal haste to Geneva where, according to his spokesman, he has been receiving treatment for "ill-health".

In Lebanon, where the Government profoundly hopes that he has lost the power struggle, a moral is being drawn from the whole affair. The *Daily Star* said yesterday that it was "a timely reminder to political leaders in Beirut of the determination - some would say, ruthlessness - displayed by the Damascus regime in getting its own way". If anyone defying President Assad was going to be made a head shorter, the newspaper added, then "we could soon see some Lebanese politicians with a stature to match the size of their achievements".

As for General Tlas, he stands unwaveringly by the President. He is not only a poetry-lover, but nurses a deep interest in flowers. Indeed, he has published a book on the subject. One flower he has named after himself. But the most splendid bloom of all, printed in vivid colour, he has named after his Excellency, President Hafez al-Assad.

Papandreou backs off from poll

From Mario Mediano, Athens

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, has opted against an early general election as a means of settling his personal feud with Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the recently elected chief Opposition leader.

He announced his decision on Tuesday night, after having had an informal exchange with President Karamanlis and lengthy consultations with close Socialist Party aides. "As far as I am concerned," he said, "elections will be held on schedule in October, 1985."

The election of Mr Mitsotakis as leader of the conservative new democracy party, and Mr Papandreou's vehement reaction to it, prompted reports last week that the Prime Minister was seriously considering a surprise election in November to catch his rival off guard.

Mr Papandreou's associates and also pro-Government newspapers warned him of possible political backlash if he were seen forcing the country into a premature election simply to vent a personal grudge dating back 20 years, when his father's Government was overthrown by a defection led by Mr Mitsotakis.

President Karamanlis is known to have made it clear to all concerned that valid constitutional cause, such as a national emergency, was needed for the President to act in motion the procedure for advancing the election date by 11 months.

Malta sets up diplomatic link with Angola

From Our Correspondent, Valletta

Malta and Angola have established diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level, after an official visit to the island by President José Eduardo Dos Santos.

It was agreed that an Angolan delegation will visit Malta later this year to strengthen commercial cooperation in many fields.

In another development, Malta's Prime Minister, Mr Dom Mintoff, visited North Korea recently and met President Kim Il Sung. On his way there, he visited Bulgaria and China. Relations between Malta and North Korea are strong - a controversial arms deal was concluded between them last year.

Tamil cash diverted

From Our Correspondent, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Cabinet yesterday decided that proposed development projects, especially those in the northern Tamil area, for which money had been voted should be postponed and the cash used to counter "terrorist threats".

The Minister of State, Mr Ananda Tissa de Alwis, said the

cabinet had also decided to give the armed forces and police whatever new powers they felt were necessary to counter Tamil rebels.

He said the incident in which five men in military uniform hijacked a bus and killed 15 Tamil passengers on Tuesday was still being investigated.

The Kremlin power struggle

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Pro-détente faction gains upper hand

Supporters of détente in the 12 man Politburo have won a policy struggle, strengthening the hand of Mikhail Gorbachev, the youthful and moderate Kremlin number two, informed observers believe.

The decision by Mr Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, to meet President Reagan, on September 28 despite the risk that this might help Mr Reagan's chances of reelection, is seen as part of this reassessment of Soviet policy.

But there is no sign that Soviet propaganda has adjusted to the change, suggesting that the Kremlin is still keeping its options open and will revert to a hard line if overtures to Mr Reagan do not succeed.

Sources said a dispute had been taking place behind the scenes over whether Moscow should continue to try to match the United States "weapon for weapon", as Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister,

and senior officers have vowed to do, or whether Russia should try to reach an accommodation with the Americans.

"The Russians are in a weak position", one Western diplomat said. "Their economy is backward and it costs them enormous effort to keep up with the Americans technologically."

Observers believe these differences lay at the heart of a power struggle involving Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, dismissed last week as Chief of Staff. It is thought that Marshal Ogarkov, a politically ambitious soldier who had been involved in arms control talks since Salt 1, argued that the military must keep pace with the United States, whatever the cost.

But others, including President Chernenko and Mr Gorbachev, his heir apparent, are said to be mindful of consumer needs as well as defence spending and lean

towards accommodation with Washington.

"But no Soviet leader can afford to appear weak", a Western diplomat said. "Any rapprochement must be seen to be on equal terms". Both Mr Gorbachev and Mr Chernenko have made this clear in recent speeches.

Pravda said yesterday that the United States was not interested in agreement on space weapons because Washington was beholden to the "military-industrial elite", which stood to profit from "Star Wars" systems.

There is still no sign that Russia intends to send a delegation to the Star Wars talks in Vienna next week, even though talks on space weapons might serve as a first move towards détente. The Soviet view is that Mr Reagan must make a concession first.

Analysis of the Politburo say Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the 78-

EEC accepts anti-terror treaty

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

EEC countries had accepted a "commitment to take common action" against international terrorists at their Dublin meeting, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

The Foreign Office would not give details of the new agree-

ment, under which the foreign ministers have backed Britain's demand for a tougher joint stance against those who commit acts of violence under the protection of diplomatic immunity.

But Sir Geoffrey, interviewed on BBC radio, compared it with the advances made in combating aircraft hijacking. No longer

could hijackers rely on finding some safe haven in a neighbouring country, he said.

This confirms the impression that the Community governments have agreed not to accept as diplomats anyone expelled for suspected terrorism from another EEC country. This is the "black list", though Whitehall rejects the term.

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Champagne stays on ice as Sharon demands provoke Labour anger

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Officials of Israel's Labour Party yesterday accused Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister, of trying to sabotage the attempts to form a national unity government as a planned parliamentary vote of confidence was put off for at least a day.

With the mandate of Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister-designate, to form a government running out on Sunday, Labour negotiators raced to obtain a parliamentary vote today for a unity government or, failing that, a narrow-based coalition.

Mr Peres had seemed on the threshold of success on Tuesday night after six parties accounting for 88 of the 120 Knesset seats, approved the coalition agreement and named their cabinet representatives. But the champagne ready for the signing ceremony in the Dan Hotel here never left the refrigerator.

The main hitch was the religious affairs portfolio which Likud had promised to the Sephardi Torah Guardians (Shas) and Labour to the National Religious Party. The draft coalition pact leaves the Prime Minister holding the portfolio until it is offered to an

agreed candidate, but Shas argued this was tantamount to leaving it under NRP control.

Mr Sharon, who had negotiated an agreement with Shas to dissuade them from entering a narrow coalition with Labour, insisted on Tuesday night that Likud honour its solemn commitment, even if it meant breaking the coalition pact.

Labour negotiators said this was a transparent device to prevent Mr Peres from completing his mission this week, in the hope that President Herzog will offer the mandate to Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud candidate.

The religious parties involved both issued ultimatums that they would not join the government without the religious affairs post, an important source of patronage in the religious community.

Mr Sharon said he was also dissatisfied with plans for peace talks with Jordan and the timing and sitting of five West Bank settlements.

Mr Yitzhak Navon, a Labour representative in the coalition talks said the party still preferred a unity government.

But Mr Uzi Baram, another Labour official, said they were

determined to present a government today in any event.

Mr Shamir at this time has no arithmetical possibility of forming a government without Labour. The President does not have to offer him the mandate if he thinks someone else has a better chance, but Mr Peres's mandate could not be extended.

The NRP, which since the July elections has balked at joining anything but a national unity government, yesterday debated whether to change its policy after Likud's move. Its four deputies, added to the 54 already committed to serving in a narrow coalition under Mr Peres would assure a parliamentary majority, assuming the four Communist deputies and two the Progressive List for Peace at least abstain.

Labour received a boost yesterday when Mr Shlomo Hillel, its candidate for Deputy Prime Minister, was elected by 60-33 with the support of the NRP and Progressive List for Peace.

Mr Matti Peled, of the Progressive List, said: "The party backed Mr Hillel after negotiations in which Labour undertook to help promote equality for Israeli Arabs."



In the dock: Herr Hoffmann, the neo-Nazi, looking relaxed as his trial opened in Nuremberg yesterday.

Neo-Nazi on trial at Nuremberg

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Riot police fought running battles with crowds of youths in Soweto yesterday as blacks gathered in defiance of government bans on meetings to commemorate the death in 1977 of Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader.

The huge township outside Johannesburg became the main trouble spot for the first time in three weeks of violence throughout the Witwatersrand which left at least 40 people dead and scores injured.

A ban on all indoor meetings until the end of September came into effect, the Government was warned that oppressed blacks were being pushed too far and would react.

Mr Kheila Mthembu, of the Soweto branch of the Azanian People's Organization (Azapo), which planned to hold a large service last night commemorating Biko's death, said: "He was killed in detention by the system and that system is refusing us the right to commemorate his death. That is an admission of guilt on their part."

Police firing tear gas and rubber bullets and lashing out with whips broke up at least four demonstrations in Soweto by youths they said were hurling stones.

Nuremberg (AP Reuter) - West Germany's most notorious neo-Nazi went on trial for alleged double murder yesterday in the same chamber where leaders of the Third Reich were condemned to death or prison by the Allied war crimes tribunal 38 years ago.

A handful of demonstrators inside and outside the Nuremberg court demanded more charges against Herr Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, aged 46, founder of a paramilitary neo-Nazi group patterned after the Hitler Youth.

Herr Hoffmann, bearded and balding, glared at the protesters but appeared relaxed as the trial began.

He is accused of ordering one of his supporters to shoot dead Solomon Levin, prominent Jewish publisher, and Frida Poeschke, the publisher's girlfriend, at their home in Erlangen, southern Germany, in December, 1980. Herr Hoffmann's girlfriend, Fraulein Franziska Birzmann, aged 36, is accused of aiding and abetting the killings.

Herr Hoffmann also faces numerous charges for his activities in Lebanon, where he founded a foreign branch of his

group after it was banned by Bonn in 1980.

He is charged with forgery, deprivation of personal liberty, coercion, 14 counts of recruiting for a foreign army, four counts of bodily assault and violation of handgun, explosives and military weapons laws.

Twelve people outside the building silently held aloft signs demanding that Herr Hoffmann be charged in connection with the 1980 bombing of the Munich Oktoberfest, which killed 13 people. In the packed courtroom a young woman stood up and shouted: "You forgot the 13 dead people at the Oktoberfest!"

The man believed responsible for the Oktoberfest bombing, Gundolf Koehler, was a member of Herr Hoffmann's Wehrsportgruppe (military sports group) who died in the explosion.

Herr Otto Horn, the State Prosecutor, told the trial that Herr Hoffmann ordered the 1980 killings to impress the Palestine Liberation Organization. The PLO has denied any link with him.

Herr Horn said that, after his group was outlawed, Herr Hoffmann fled to Lebanon for intensive paramilitary training

Euro-MPs clear British rebate

Strasbourg - The European Parliament yesterday cleared the way for Britain to be paid its frozen £457m EEC budget rebate next month (Ian Murray writes).

A meeting of the all-party budget committee here agreed the money should be paid as soon as member states find the extra funds for the Community this year. The rebate was blocked by the Parliament last June.

Sour note opens orchestra visit

Delhi (Reuter) - Scores of players in the New York Philharmonic Orchestra refused to stay in a top hotel here overnight after complaining of cockroaches and filth.

Led by the Indian conductor, Zubin Mehta, the orchestra had been greeted at the hotel by two silk-clad elephants and crowds of reporters, but Mr Mehta soon found himself trying to calm a chorus of complaints. About 60 of the orchestra's 160 members were moved to other hotels.

Thousands flee from volcano

Legaspi, Philippines (Reuter) - More than 9,000 people took refuge in temporary shelters as the Mount Mayon volcano erupted, spreading sulphur-laden smoke over the Bicol peninsula.

A danger zone has been declared over a five-mile radius round the volcano, 250 miles south-east of Manila.

Exile's return

Athens (AP) - Mr Constantine Aslanidis, aged 64, leader of the 1967 military coup, returned here saying he wanted to die in his country. A former colonel stripped of his rank, he still faces a charge for high treason.

Iraqi claim

Manama (AP) - Iraq said its naval units destroyed four ships near the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini.

Gulf shipping sources did not pick up any distress signals from merchant vessels.

Star for trial

Kitchener, Ontario (AP) - The breaststroke gold medalist and world record holder, Victor Davis of Canada, will be tried for alleged assault. The charge was brought after an incident at the swimmer's flat.

Unesco rebate

Paris (Reuter) - A Unesco official said the United States would receive a disputed \$20m (£15m) budget refund by the end of 1984, when the Reagan Administration says it will quit the organization.

Pakistan denial

Islamabad (Reuter) - Pakistan rejected an Indian charge that seven Sikh separatists, who hijacked an Indian airliner to Dubai last month, were given a pistol during a stop in Pakistan.

Mirror closure

Mirror Group Newspapers will close its New York office at the end of the month, which will produce a saving of about £500,000 a year.

Blaze toll rises

La Gomera (Reuter) - The death toll in a forest fire in the Spanish Canary Islands has risen to 16.

Libyan wounded

Madrid (Reuter) - Gunmen wounded a Libyan embassy official here in the third attack this year against Arabs in Spain.

Miners killed

Johannesburg (AP) - Seven miners were killed in a rock burst at the Blyvooruitzicht gold mine about 50 miles west of here.

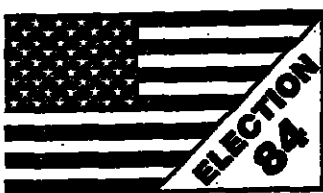
Democrat campaign plagued by abortion conflict

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Everywhere Ms Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, goes on the election campaign trail she is shadowed by anti-abortion protesters.

Usually they stand quietly in little groups among the throngs of supporters who turn out to greet her, indistinguishable from the rest of the crowds except for messages emblazoned on their placards: "Mondale-Ferraro - both back baby butchers" and "The Nazis killed babies, too" were a couple of typical examples.

Although Ms Ferraro studiously ignores their protests, she can no longer turn a blind eye to the abortion issue, which has emerged as one of the most controversial themes of the 1984 election campaign.



had misrepresented the Church's position on abortion. He challenged an earlier statement of hers that the Church's teaching on abortion was not monolithic and was "open to interpretation."

He said: "The teachings of the Catholic Church on abortion are monolithic. It is the task of the Church to reaffirm that abortion is death."

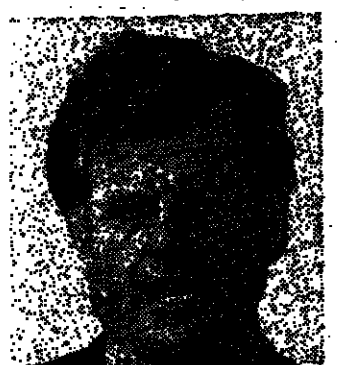
The Archbishop was immediately taken to task by Senator Edward Kennedy, America's best-known Catholic politician, who accused him of trying to impose his morality on others. "The proper role of religion is to appeal to the free conscience of each person, not the coercive rule of secular law," the Senator said.

Although Ms Ferraro and the Archbishop have attempted to play down their dispute - they amicably discussed their differences by telephone earlier this week - it is clear the abortion issue will continue to dog Ms Ferraro and Mr Walter Mondale, the Democratic Presidential candidate, throughout the campaign.

The issue is part of the broader controversy over the relationship between religion and politics which President Reagan started in Dallas two weeks ago, when he said that the two were "necessarily related."

President Reagan and his Republican Party are trying to pose as the party of patriotism, traditional values and belief in God, and to paint their Democratic opponents as being un-American and un-Christian. Such sentiments have inflamed public opinion in a country where the separation of church and state is enshrined in the constitution.

Among the most vocal groups backing President Reagan's reelection are the fundamentalist churches of what is known as the "Religious Right". These churches are bitterly opposed to abortion (they are also in favour of school prayer, another of the President's campaign issues) and have been leading the attack against Ms Ferraro.



Senator Kennedy: Attack on New York archbishop.

A Roman Catholic she is personally opposed to abortion, but she maintains that as a public office holder she should not force her moral views on others. "I am anti-abortion, but pro-choice," is how she tries to explain her position in a way that reconciles her own religious beliefs, her feminist views and her support for the constitution (which permits abortion).

However, the Catholic Church does not accept Ms Ferraro's position and has said so openly. Last week Archbishop Bernard Law of Boston and 17 New England bishops denounced as "irresponsible" the view taken by Ms Ferraro (and by Governor Mario Cuomo of New York, a fellow Democrat) that public office holders should not impose on others their personal opposition to abortion.

This week Archbishop John O'Connor, of New York joined the fray, saying Ms Ferraro "could have a problem with the Pope" because of the way she

Journalist says forger offered Hitler opera

Hamburg (Reuter) - Herr Gerd Heidemann, the journalist charged with fraud in the Hitler diaries trial, yesterday said he had also been on the trail of an opera, purportedly written by the Nazi dictator.

Herr Heidemann told a Hamburg court that Herr Konrad Kusan, the memorabilia dealer also facing fraud charges, offered him the opera *Wieland the Blacksmith* and an unpublished third volume of Hitler's autobiography "Mein Kampf" as well as the diaries.

Herr Kusan said in his testimony that he received between DM 40,000 and DM 70,000 for each diary. The Hamburg magazine *Stern* paid DM 9,34m for the diaries, DM 6m of which is still missing.

Swiss cut speed limits

From Our Correspondent, Geneva

Switzerland decided yesterday to reduce speed limits, to 50mph on ordinary roads and 74.5mph on motorways, from January 1.

The Federal Cabinet took its decision to protect forests against acid rain.

In announcing the new limitations - which do not require Parliamentary approval

the Cabinet said many individual motorists supported speed reductions.

But first reactions were overwhelmingly critical. Some bodies asserted that impatient drivers would be even more accident-prone.

The maximum speed in built-up areas has been 31mph since July 1.

Kasparov tries pawn sacrifice on wary Karpov

Moscow (Reuter) - Challenger Gary Kasparov began the second game of the world title match against Anatoly Karpov, the reigning champion, with the white pieces.

Karpov spurned the Queen's Gambit Declined, which has been his favourite way of neutralizing the slight inferiority of the black pieces. He opted for a Queen's Indian and Kasparov unleashed a pawn sacrifice.

The moves in the first game of the championship were:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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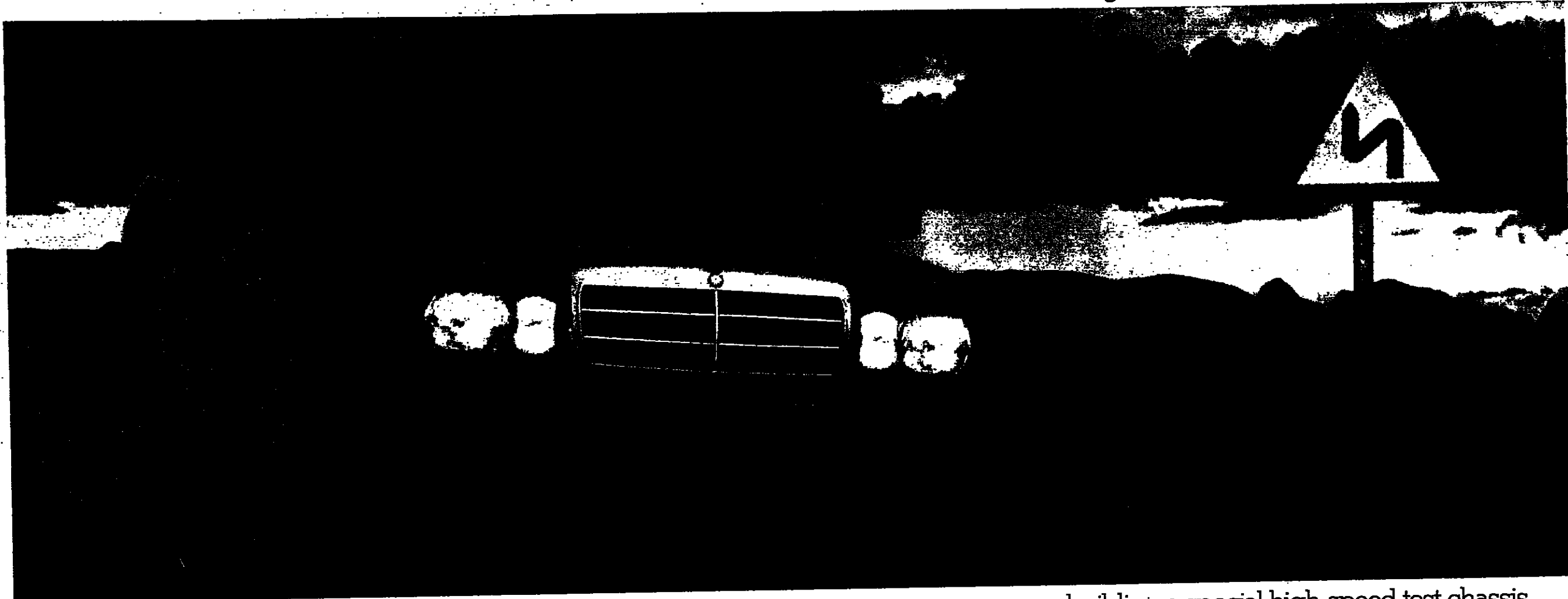
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SPECTRUM

From 'mad monk' to prophet

The Times Profile:
Sir Keith Joseph

Three years in education has turned Sir Keith Joseph's image from the 'mad monk' of monetarism into the elder statesman of new Toryism.

Treading cautiously, choosing his words like stepping stones, the welfare establishment's former hate figure is beginning to lead educationists out of what he sees as the quagmire of ineffective striving towards his vision of better education for all.

While some parliamentary colleagues fear that Sir Keith has sunk into the marshes of the Department of Education and Science never to be seen again, closer allies are beginning to believe that his period in education will prove to be the final summit of the 40 years spent sliding up and down the slippery slopes of political achievement and embarrassment. Well before this week's reshuffle was announced, rumours that he might be moved had held sway.

Certainly educationists shuddered when he first took over as Secretary of State for Education and Science, as he proceeded to scrap the Schools Council, issued scathing attacks on the quality of teachers, and proposed a voucher scheme to enable parents to choose schools in a public market place. It seemed he was going to succeed only in antagonizing the entrenched interests which inevitably confront a minister attempting to turn the super-tanker of a massive public service.

More than most ministries, education is notorious for sucking the toughest politicians into hopeless frustration. The Secretary of State's powers are so limited, the need of consensus agreement so thoroughly in-built, that cosmetic adjustments, aimed at short-term political advantage seem simpler than attempting to redirect a system which takes, at best, a decade to produce results.

Yet, if Joseph's ambitions are realized, Britain's secondary schools will be working to a radically new single system of examinations at 16 plus with courses starting by 1986, collectively agreed learning targets, a nationally consistent curriculum, and new forms of assessment.

Joseph is hardly a man to whom compromise comes easy. It takes a characteristic pause for thought, brow buried in hand, before he replies to the question: "Have you been forced to bend your views?" He emerges to pass the simple self-judgment: "Nothing has happened to change my mind. I am only more aware of the problems and difficulties in effecting change."

A fellow of All Saints, wealthy heir to a father who founded Bovis, the building contractors, Joseph's practising Jewish faith is balanced by an equivalent belief in the ideal of a liberal civilization. While at the Department of Trade and Industry he once blamed the national industrial decline partly on the failure of British schools to pass on "civilized values" from one generation to the next.

The intellectual educated into the most elite strata of society, through Harrow and Magdalen College, was also mentioned in despatches in the Italian cam-

paign at the end of the war. He is now a partisan fighting to preserve a cherished culture which he sees as invaded by uncritical pleasure-seeking pursuits.

All of which seems to place him far distant from Merseyside youths who leave school with no qualifications to join the dole queues. Stories abound of him wandering off on his frequent snap visits to schools in search of ordinary teenagers.

He finds a group of astonished fifth-formers and quizzes them on the concepts of a "general education". Yet his awareness of the dilemma posed by the "bottom 40 per cent" is keener than many of who can fairly claim to have better understanding of the low achievers' lifestyle. Some head teachers who have witnessed Joseph's group interviews with youngsters suspect that his very remoteness enables him to home in on their disaffections quicker than others.

Grave doubts about the value of compulsory schooling remain. Starting from the assumption that boredom is endemic in British classrooms, Joseph believes that compulsion has disastrous consequences for attainment. Children endure the time between morning registration and the home bell because they have to. They see few incentives to learn.

His diagnosis, then, was in tune with the educational establishment. The prescription written to cure the malaise is, however, peculiarly his own.

He thinks passive
entertainments...
are draining the
sap from society

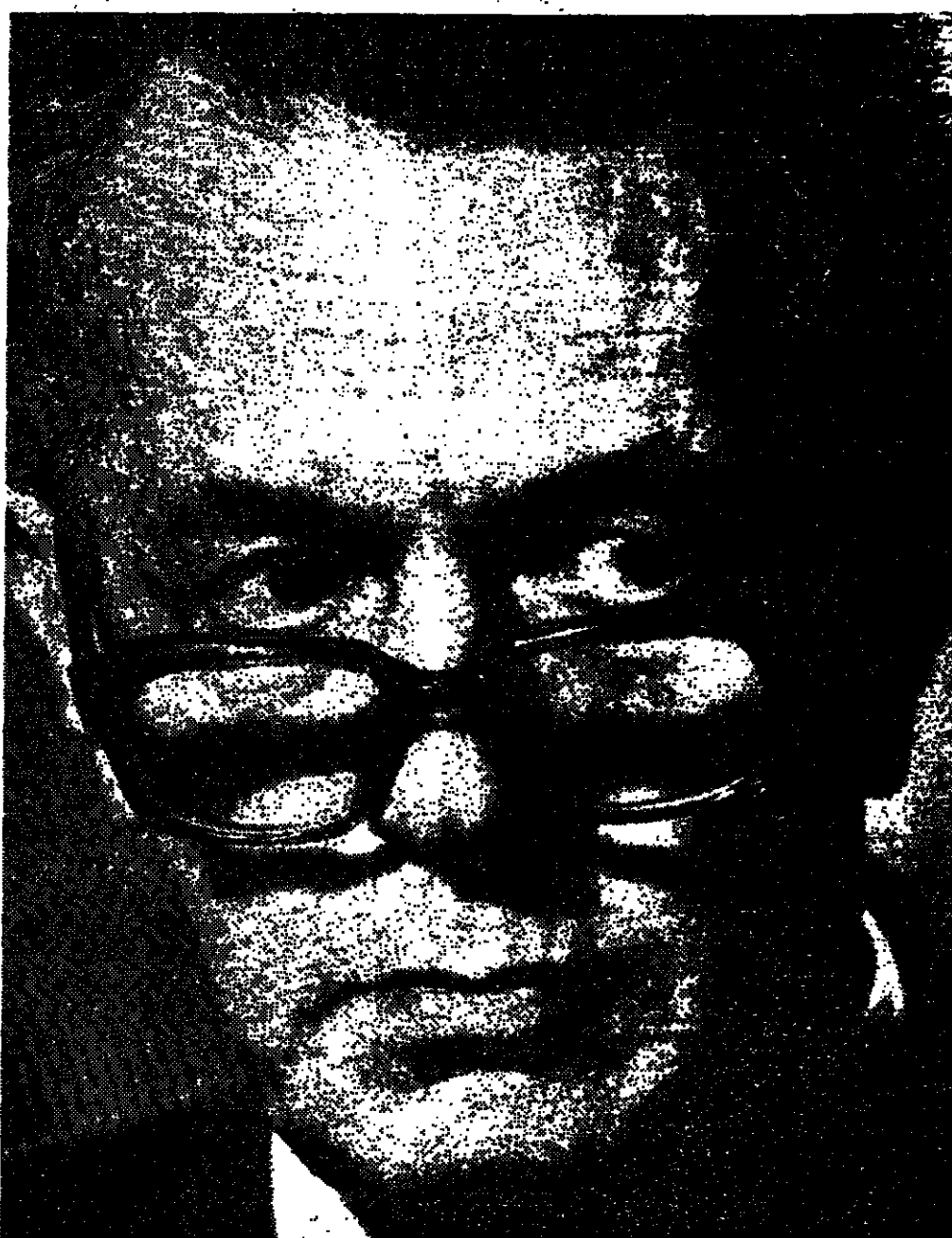
Far from following the course advocated by many teachers, and letting children find their own interests and aptitudes, he decided to set them goals to strive towards, ensuring that even the least academically able left with some evidence of their achievements.

Some still suspect that Joseph will simply be setting hurdles which sceptical teenagers will refuse to jump over, and others doubt that his search for national agreement on what should be taught in schools will come to a shadowy nothing. How then, has he managed to persuade teachers and examiners to ever commence the arduous and detailed task?

He frankly admits that he has taken ideas of "left-wing provocation", such as records of achievement and grade related criteria which have long been brewing in research reports. He has sought to distill them into a tonic which will re-invigorate motivation among teachers and pupils.

Early on he antagonized the teaching profession with caustic condemnation of their quality. Now he believes that there is, at each end of the spectrum, a small band of both brilliant and hopelessly inept teachers. In the middle lies a vast group who he says "are neither incompetent, nor very effective."

He has also come to believe that the job of teaching is far more difficult than he initially realized. The challenge is tough.



Joseph appears quaintly donnish, tipping his spectacles down on his nose

and his powers allow him little room for manoeuvre. All teacher training courses will be reviewed within three years, and refresher courses expanded, but the thorniest issue is out of his hands. He can only sit on the sidelines and make encouraging noises in the hope that the teaching unions will eventually agree to accept tighter contracts and annual assessment in return for more money.

Curiously, he also now seems to have conceded that the issues of selective schools versus comprehensive is now peripheral. Several Conservative-controlled authorities which took the government's lead and proposed returning to grammar schools were outvoted by

parents. Unhappily, Joseph decided to increase competition in comprehensives, through examination reform.

When he first took plans for a new single examination to replace O-levels and CSEs to Cabinet the Prime Minister reacted with a flat rejection. It took months to persuade her that he had not gone native in the DES, and succumbed to egalitarian pressures. In fact the left has only recently woken up to the implications of Joseph's reform. An article in this month's *Marxism Today* is the first to realize that his plans may well create greater differentiation of abilities within schools than the grammar/secondary divide did between

schools. What is Sir Keith up to? The author asked.

The answer is both simple and elusive, befitting a paradoxical character. His workaholic logic has enabled him to pull together widely disparate strands into what he hopes will be a "watertight" package, but underneath lies a peculiarly idiosyncratic mission, to combat what he calls "the culture of our time".

Here Joseph slips from precise analysis into oracular utterance, leaving his interviewer frankly bewildered. "We have opened Pandora's box," he says, "and we don't know how to close it." What do you mean, Sir Keith? "Yes it is enigmatic," he smiles. "Almost Delphic." From the ensuing discussion it seems that he believes passive entertainments like television are draining the sap from liberal society, weakening the minds of each new generation.

This, then, is why teachers face a tougher task than ever before. The technological age has let hope out of the box, but brought with it the possibility of cultural despair.

Friends attribute his poor public image to terror of television, which is banned from his home. Beneath the grim, unsympathetic and humourless screen face are hands visibly shaking with nervous fear, which disappears as soon as the cameraman switches off.

He is solitary in spirit and fact. Though he still sees his four adult children often, he never refers to the cause of his

separation four years ago, and subsequent divorce, from his former wife Helen, a daughter of the American Guggenheimer family. He rubs no shoulders in Commons bars and tearooms, and fights shy of crowds, preferring to relax reading Spanish and French literature at home.

On platforms he first appears quaintly donnish, tipping half-rim spectacles down onto his nose to apologize for reading from a prepared text. Always he says he will be brief, eager to dive into the lions' den of question and answer session he invariably insists must follow.

Panderers on his own political side are politely turned aside, for Joseph prefers to choose debating companions from among the opponents he respects, honing his own views against the sharpest opposition. Thus he far prefers the company of left-wing local authority leaders such as Mrs Nicky Harrison, of Haringey, or Mrs Josie Farrington, of Lancashire, to Tories he deems simplistic.

At a meeting of activists Inner London Education Authority parents earlier this year a member of an ethnic minority stood to sternly rebuke Sir Keith for draining funds from the most disadvantaged children. On asking the lady where she came from Joseph was told his interlocutor was Greek. "A fine language," he replied. "I wish I could speak it." At which a quick-witted Londoner piped up: "You certainly talk Greek to me."

The fact that Joseph was eager to stand alone among defenders of the authority he has most attacked was surprising enough. But even more was that he can now good-humouredly engage these antagonists in ardent exchanges devoid of the acrimony he once attracted from, for example, redundant Sheffield steel-workers who spat at him walked by.

The Greek reference is apt, for Joseph's brand of liberalism is born of a faith in Socratic debate, judgment arising from logical argument. It gives rise to a naive honesty which his political advisors often find alarming. Being almost guileless, he finds it hard to believe that anyone might have less than pure motives. Bureaucrats write longer reports, having discovered that he meticulously reads every word they submit for his attention.

Soon after taking over at the DES Joseph arranged a Monday meeting with leading microbiologists to discuss the crisis in research funding, a friend who dropped in the previous Saturday evening to his Chelsea home to find the minister sitting in open shirt and slippers, was surprised to see him surrounded by piles of biology textbooks which he had clearly been reading for some hours, catching up on the past 40 years of scientific discovery. He was doing his 'prep', characteristically alone and absorbed.

On noticing his friend's entry, Sir Keith looked up with stony-eyed countenance and said: "You know, what these people have found is magnificent." His innocent delight in DNA's double helix was matched only by determination to brief himself beyond ministerial demands.

For some, no doubt, the story confirms Reginald Maudling's "nutty as a fruit-cake" caricature. For others, it confirms the paradox of a man, who, through endearing charm and cutting

tool rigour, had become the unlikely leader of a new optimism in education policy.

His own view is that "we have taken only a few steps down a very long road". Some of the toughest challenges lie ahead, notably over his proposals to enlist parents as guardians over his drive for improved standards by giving them a majority on school governing bodies. The Green Paper on Parental Influence has brought unanimous opposition from all political sides in the education world, including parents' groups who fear he is giving them an illusion of power and sowing the seeds of division among the officials, politicians, and community interests who run the service.

He has yet to commence the long debate over a nationally agreed curriculum, which many believe is a fantastic and unattainable goal. All he will now say is: "I believe it better to

He hones his
views against
the sharpest
opposition

teach... I don't know why I'm hesitating... a relatively narrower range of learning abilities." No more will the flak be flying only over the inevitably contentious field of peace studies. It will fly over every subject, from mathematics to health education. Joseph relishes the prospect, and is already eagerly preparing speeches to fire a debate which may do more to influence the learning of coming generations than James Callaghan's "great debate" of the late seventies.

There are times when it seems the education world of Sir Keith part company over only one question: public spending. Some of the toughest battles are, however, yet to come.

This autumn he must decide how to plan cuts in higher education places until the end of the century. He will go ahead with unpopular proposals to create two classes of children, those who can be caned, and those who cannot, depending on whether parents object.

Though he has won support for steps to improve vocational training in schools and colleges, such as the Technical and Vocational Training Initiative, and Certificate of Pre-Vocational Education, the local authorities are still refusing to discuss with him the government's plans to transfer one-quarter of their training funds to the Manpower Services Commission. It seems 1984 could still prove to be the honeymoon year turned sour.

His own judgment characteristically stumbles mid-sentence. "I have succeeded in controlling... no, not controlling... influencing strongly the agenda." The fund of respect which has enabled that influence recently will be severely tested over the coming months, but he can at least be sure his carefully chosen words will no longer be dismissed immediately as prejudiced right-wing ravings. Educationists will think long and hard before following in his footsteps.

Colin Hughes

How the
farmers
beat the
weather

As Britain's granaries fill to overflowing, the obvious question is whether any natural agency can halt the inexorable increase in cereal production. Certainly, the wide range of weather experienced in the 1980s has had little effect on the rising trend.

Output reached a new peak of more than 19 million tonnes in the cold wet summer of 1980. In the average year of 1981 the figure was about the same, but shot up to nearly 22 million tonnes in the warm damp summer of 1982. Last year even the coldest, wettest April and May since 1782, followed by a record-breaking hot summer only reduced this massive figure slightly.

This year even the farmers seem not to have been complaining. The much-publicized drought has mainly affected the west of the country, while most grain-producing areas have had an almost perfect combination of rainfall and warmth. The result is likely to top by 10 to 15 per cent the 1982 records.

Much of the recent advance is due to improved cereal varieties, the increased use of fertilizers and the widespread switch to winter wheat and barley, rather than spring sowings. Nonetheless, does the apparent insensitivity in recent years mean that farmers have been overdoing it by placing so much blame on the weather?

The extent to which cereal yields have risen over the years is often overlooked. In the Middle Ages, average returns were a staggeringly four grains for every grain sown.

Productivity rose slowly, and by the mid-eighteenth century, on the better land the yields had reached around 10 to 12 grains per grain sown, which equates to 1.5 to 2 tonnes per hectare. This level of productivity did much to banish the spectre of famine, but the variations between the good and bad years were still striking, and farmers could still rightly blame the weather.

What is surprising is the relatively slow advance of agricultural productivity over the next two centuries. Statistics, first collected in the British Isles from the 1850s onwards, show average wheat yields rising from around two tonnes per hectare to a figure of about 2.4 by the Second World War.

Over the last 30 to 40 years there has been a truly remarkable change as the average yield for wheat has risen by nearly a factor of three. From a nadir of less than two tonnes per hectare in 1947 it has soared to a figure close to seven this year.

The consequence of these continually rising yields, now some 10 times the medieval figures, is to alter dramatically the nature of the impact of the weather. In the Middle Ages an extreme summer meant famine, in the nineteenth century it could push yields down to a level not experienced for decades and ruin farmers, but now it only depresses them to those of a few years ago. Even the unequalled drought of 1976 only pushed wheat and barley yields back to those of the late 1960s. While agriculture is made more difficult by bad weather, it has become increasingly independent of the vagaries of our weather.

Bill Burroughs

Snookered at the end of Act three

moreover... Miles Kington

Yesterday and the day before we printed the first two acts of *Köchel*, a new play which investigates the death of Mozart who, if he had avoided an early demise, would be 228 years old today. Story so far Köchel is going frantic trying to keep up with Mozart's output. Meanwhile, a stranger in black has commissioned Mozart to write a requiem, but Wolfgang says he will have to wait until after the big billiard match against the Salzburg Masons. Now...

KÖCHEL (Act III)
(Scene: the billiard room of a palace in Vienna. Enter Mozart, correcting his pools results)

Mozart: Vienna against Paris, no-score draw. Good. Mannheim against Salzburg, score draw. Good! London against Toulouse, cancelled due to war situation. Blast! All I need is one good win on the pools and then I can give up composing for good. What a racket. Take Salieri for instance... (Enter Salieri.) Antonelli! Holat Como está, amigo!

Salieri: It's no good, Wolfgang. For a start, I'm Italian and you're talking

Spanish. For another thing, they like my music better because they can tap their feet to it.

Mozart: They'll like me better when I'm dead and gone!

Salieri: Roll on the day.

Mozart: Is that a death threat?

Salieri: Oh, don't be so melodramatic. Wolfgang. Good luck with the billiards match, by the way. (Exit Salieri. Enter Köchel)

Köchel: Who was that I saw just go out?

Mozart: That was Salieri, unless of course it was you disguised as Salieri. It's hard to tell in these clever modern murder plays.

Köchel: Oh, don't be so melodramatic, Wolfgang.

Mozart: That's just what he said. I wonder...?

Köchel: I just came in to check if you

had written any more works since lunch. That serenade you wrote before breakfast I've called Köchel 798, the sonata you dashed off at breakfast in K 799 and K 800 is...

Mozart: I suppose you realize that in years to come the name Köchel will be just as famous as Mozart?

Köchel: Of course. That's why I do it. Good luck with the billiards match. (Exit Köchel. Enter dark stranger in black clothes.)

Mozart: It's downright impossible to get any practice round here. Good job I'm not writing an opera, that's all I can say. Well, what can I do for you, sir?

Stranger: Have you any progress to report on that requiem I commissioned?

Mozart: Requiem? Oh yes, the requiem. The requiem. Well, things

have been very busy, squire. I've been working on other jobs, for a start. For another thing, you just can't get the soprano.

Stranger: You promised me the requiem by Monday, Mozart. I shall be back then or else... (Exit stranger. Re-enter stranger.) Oh by the way, this note was waiting for you outside. (Exit stranger.)

Mozart: I shall never understand why noblemen wanting requiems don't just come in and say: I want a requiem, Mozart. All this dressing up in dark clothes and being mysterious - why do they do it? Oh, well...

Better see what the note says. Then I'll knock off his requiem before I go down the pub for billiard practice... (He opens the note and reads.)

We shall therefore not be requiring your services for the billiards match

on Saturday, as your form does not warrant selection." Blimey! I've been dropped from the team! (He staggers around a bit, then dies. Enter Köchel, Salieri and dark stranger.) Köchel: Mozart is dead! Dead! Dead! Well, that gives me some breathing space.

Stranger: Blast. And I wanted a requiem from him.

Salieri: They'll never believe he just keeled over because he wasn't selected for the billiards team. They'll blame us, you know that?

Köchel: All right. Let's pop him in a pauper's grave and then cook up a good story...

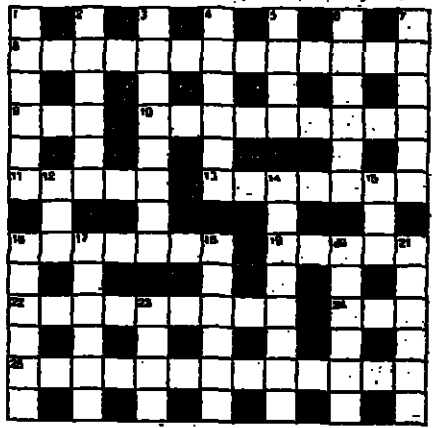
Salieri: Let's say he was overdoing things...

Stranger: Which he was of course, what with my requiem and everything.

(The end. Unsatisfactory? You wanted something more dramatic? A murderer, etc? But life isn't like that! Life is boring. If you want anything different, go to the West End. Believe me, Mozart's death was just another cardiac arrest case. Sorry.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 444)

- ACROSS
9 Dental (13)
10 Strike lightly (3)
11 Prison (9)
12 Small Welsh dog (5)
13 Coarse (7)
14 Unconventional (7)
15 Potato stem (2)
22 Third anniversary (9)
24 Meadow (3)
25 Bell's flowers (6,7)
DOWN
1 Vineyard (6)
2 Rifleman (6)
3 Usual action (8)
4 Confused (6)
5 Blackleg (4)
6 Japanese robe (6)
7 Invisible (5)
12 Cancelled (3)
14 Perfectionist opposite (6)
15 Wise bird (3)
16 Choice (6)
17 Sixth day (6)
18 Felt hat (6)
20 Except (6)
21 Atmospheric pollution (6)
23 Near (4)



SOLUTION TO No 443

ACROSS: 1 Jugged 7 Karate 7 Maid 9 Ornament 9 Carillon 13 Hep 16 Unknown origin 17 Zim 19 Fervency 24 Agitprop 25 Sumo 26 Frugal 27 Dexter
DOWN: 1 Jump 2 Grimaltin 3 Droll 4 Kendo 5 Romp 6 Tinge 10 In off 11 Litter 12 Nurse 13 High Court 14 Pink 15 Suez 18 Eager 20 Enrol 21 Vapid 22 Stag 23 Poor

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BOOKS

Bing, bang, bump factions

James Fenton reviews the long missing unfinished novel by
D. H. Lawrence

Mr NOON
By D. H. Lawrence
Cambridge, £12.95

occasions quotations of poetry are left without attribution, where one might have forgiven an honest "source unknown". Who, for instance, wrote this?

The roses round the door
Make me love my mother more
But when they're in bud
She scarcely stirs my blood.

Lawrence says in the text that he stole it. From where?

The gaps in the explanatory material are the more infuriating when there is so much obvious over-explaining. When Mr Noon is waiting for his girlfriend outside chapel, Lawrence says he "loitered like a pale ghost at the edge of the chapel stream." Pale! Loitered! Lindeth Vasey cannot help reminding us of *La Belle Dame Sans Merci*. Yet if this faint echo is worth pointing out, surely the substantial image Lawrence is conjuring up, of a pale ghost loitering at the edge of a stream, has more to do with Virgil's ghosts awaiting Charon.

If you want to know everything about pounds, shillings and pence (including the fact that cupro-nickel replaced silver and that a farthing's change was sometimes given "as a tiny item of trade, such as a packet of pins") then you will be pleased to fork out so many pounds for this edition, which devotes its last page to the subject, without however giving the reader any sense of the value of the money Lawrence is talking about. But you may note that Lindeth Vasey seems not to know the jingle explaining that the unjust hath the just's umbrella.

There's another annoying thing about this edition of a missing unfinished novel of

Lawrence's, which its publishers cannot resist calling an edition of major importance to the canon, and that is - the novel itself, the first part, already printed and known as *The Modern Lover*, is tiresome junk. The whole thing is written in a style which would like to call itself sprightly and perhaps even comic, but the sprightliness consists of endless addresses to the gentle reader on the subject of true love. The repetitiveness of this material is a give-away. Lawrence has run out of things to say on the subject, but feels he can't leave it alone.

The second part of the book claims our attention as a thinly disguised account of the author's elopement with Frieda, and their early months together, at first around Metz and then moving from Bavaria through the Tirol. It is true that here the book picks up considerably in interest, but one wishes - how one wishes - that the presence of novel-writing had been dropped, and that the author had satisfied himself with composing a memoir.

At least in a memoir, Lawrence might have resisted the following supposed exchange:

"Do you know, I was rather frightened that you weren't a good lover. But it isn't every man who can love a woman three times in a quarter of an hour - so well - is it?" and she looked round at him with a radiant and triumphant face, holding his comb in one hand.

"How should I know?" he muttered, turning aside.
"I assure you it isn't," she said.

What follows is perhaps a good example of the "standard" of writing in this book, the unimpeachable apostrophizing of the gentle reader.

I can see absolutely no sounder ground for permanent marriage than Johanna's - three times in a

quarter of an hour, and so well. Then you know what you're in for. Then you're done. At the bed-rock of marriage. And why, gentle reader, the sterner sex should have such cravings for the wings of a dove, far away, far away, far away from the bedrock of marriage to fly. I really don't know. Why he wants to soar in mid-heaven with a dinner in his ruptured lips, I cannot tell. It is one of the many mysteries.

"Bing - Bang - bump goes the hammer on the anvil."

Of course there wouldn't be much of a story if our hero went on so glibly with an orgasm every five minutes (as well) until the end of the book. Mysterious failures are hinted at, after which the author preens himself of the honesty of his account of things. A chap whose real name was Harold Hobson (not Sir Harold Hobson, another one) turns up and cuckolds Lawrence in a hayloft, which leads to some diffy moments. Our hero is forgiving. Our heroine can do without his forgiveness.

By this time, the book has been going round in circles for a little while. There is alpinism, nudism (with our hero vaguely reluctant to join in the dance), there are cavortings in the manner of the Ballets Russes (led by David Carruthers, there are meditations on the essential paganism of the mountain crucifixes, there are blatherings about tree worship and how one feels the presence of the Romans. There are passages like this:

It was hard not to believe in the old, white-skinned gods, whom Wagner travestied. Surely Siegfried tramped through such spring meadows, breaking the red-blond globe-flowers against his fierce, naked knees. Surely for him the birch-trees shook their luminous green fleece in heaven, poised on a trunk-beam of light.

But here we must leave Lawrence and Frieda, breaking the god-blond globe-flowers against their fierce naked knees, eating their dark peasant bread and feeling their dark feelings. The manuscript was never finished. It went missing and was believed lost.

But then came the university of Austin, Texas. And then came Lindeth Vasey.



The Times and publishers Jonathan Cape are launching a new £5,000 competition for young writers. The judges, Doris Lessing, Ian McEwan, Peter Stothard (Features Editor of The Times), Liz Calder (editorial director of Jonathan Cape) and Hermione Lee (critic and broadcaster) will be looking for exciting and original work by people under 30, either fiction or non-fiction. The Times intends to publish an extract from the winning entry in June 1985, and Cape will publish the entire work in the spring of 1986. There will also be a competition for young designers and artists to produce a jacket design for the winning book.

The conditions of The Times/Jonathan Cape Young Writers Competition are:

1. The competition is open to anyone, anywhere in the world writing in English provided he or she is able to and agrees to grant The Times exclusive serial rights in the winning entry and Cape exclusive publishing rights throughout the world in all languages.

The Electric Harvest is what surely will be reaped towards the end of this century out of the computerized, transistorized, micro-chipped civilization which has come into being in the last decade or so. Tom Davies carries many grimly discernible aspects of present society to a frighteningly logical extreme: the London streets, derelict, decayed and often gutted, are almost all unsafe, provided by savage gangs bereft of work or hope; the black communities live inside a sort of stockade from which they emerge now and then for a spot of mayhem; there is civil war in Northern Ireland; football matches are played in empty stadia for television, whose ubiquitous crews batten lovingly on the savagery around them, as do irresponsible newspaper-men quite capable of inventing some new horror which duly comes to pass.

These events are seen mainly from the point of view of two journalists, one a layabout gossip columnist who is a relatively harmless swiller of champagne, the other a Baskerville newshound who will stop at nothing to pursue and protect his story. The lives and experiences of the two men are ingeniously interwoven in this world of pervasive viciousness and cruelty, in which we are expected to believe the party in power is the SDP - though political power is an illusion. It is an unpleasant book and it is obviously intended to be. But readers should not expect the sombre or sinister vision of an Orwell or a Huxley. *The Electric Harvest* is an out-and-out satire in which the author's evident anger and disgust is seldom tempered with compassion. Himself an experienced journalist, Mr Davies does not appear to cherish any great esteem for his confères.

Circles in a Forest is a novel written with anger also; but anger born of love for a beautiful area of land exploited and ravished by human greed and indifference. It is set in the Kynsna Forest in the Cape Province of South Africa in the last decades of the nineteenth century. The central character, Saul, is a man of formidable will and independence, notices early in life what is happening to the environment he loves with obsession. At several crucial moments he seems to recognize some strange affinity with a noble wild

Philip Howard
THE TIGER
By Lisa St Aubin de Terán
Cape, £8.95

Those puzzled to meet a tiger as the recurrent image in a novel set in South America, rather than Bengal, will not have their mystery completely resolved when they learn that "tiger" is the local name for the great jaguar of the plains. Lucien, the hero, is a small boy. But the tiger also stands for the spots of tuberculosis in his lungs. It may represent the terrible climate that grinds men into the ground with drought and lethargy. Above all it stands for his tigress grandmother, part witch, all tyrant, who clings to his back even after she is dead.

This is a book with a tropical profusion of symbols and action. The grandmother is not just a tigress queen of the llanos; she is also Prussian, from the race apart, Lucien is obsessed not just with his granny, with do-it-yourself baroque architecture, with gardening and cooking, but also with roulette, which he sees as a pattern for the business of chance and decision in life. His lone crusade of 70 years takes him not just around Venezuela; but also to Hitler's Germany, and all up South America, the last 25 years of it in prison. Lucien has also inherited a passion for symbolic pyres.

The mixture may sound a bit rich. On occasion it is. It certainly counters the criticism that not a lot happens in Lisa St Aubin de Terán's previous two novels. Far more space is given to Lucien's childhood than his melancholy end. After granny dies, and Lucien becomes a millionaire from gambling whenever he wants, the story becomes impressionistic, with echoes of García Márquez fantasy. But it is always interesting, beautifully written, with the delicacy and intelligence of a great cat; perhaps a literary tiger.

Introducing:

THE TIMES
JONATHAN CAPE
Young Writers
COMPETITION

2. Entries must be between 50,000 and 120,000 words in length and may be either fiction or non-fiction. They must be the original work of the entrant, or joint entrants, and must not include characters whether fictional or otherwise which are taken from any existing copyright work or describe any story, novel or event which forms part of any existing literary, dramatic or artistic work.

3. £5,000 will be presented to the winner in June 1985 (£1,000 will be paid as an outright payment and £4,000 as an advance on account of the rights detailed in clause 1).

4. Entries should be addressed to: Young Writers Competition, Jonathan Cape Limited, 30 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3EL.

5. Entrants must be under 30 on January 1st 1985.

6. Pseudonyms are acceptable but real names must be given when submitting entries and will be treated in confidence.

7. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

8. The Times and Jonathan Cape reserve the right not to award the prize if there is no entry of a sufficiently high standard.

9. The competition is not open to employees of Jonathan Cape or Times Newspapers or their relatives.

10. The winner will be announced in the week commencing 17th June 1985.

11. Additional inquiries to the Publicity Department of Jonathan Cape.

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Through the keyhole of a Top Person

David Pryce-Jones

KENNETH CLARK
By Mervyn Sefton
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95

National Gallery. Launched so spectacularly, the Great Clark Boom, in his phrase, was never to burst.

Going over the ground, Mrs Sefton is repetitive, and her paraphrasing mostly loses either the detail or the bite of the original Clark version. To give an illustration, Clark has described how at Winchester he had forecast to a companion that he would be Berenson's assistant, and was called "Bloody Little Pig" by the house-master who overheard him. "Quite right," Clark goes on to comment, "it was a disgustingly self-satisfied remark for a boy of sixteen to make." Mrs Sefton boils this down into, "He was the assistant Berenson needed, he decided, and found himself saying so one day with more confidence than he felt."

Shooting pheasants at the Clarks for Mrs Sefton is a

matter of "those feathered targets wheeled over their heads" and she writes of a Clark son "in his Btons", or of C. F. Bell as "Charlie", which Kenneth Clark did not permit himself to do. The Quiddis Clark comes in gushes. Here is Clark at the Ashmolean: "One imagines him in a cramped back room, perhaps overcast with that delicate, greyish light that seeps through the autumn mists in England, oblivious of the cold, fingering pieces of paper once held by Raphael and Michelangelo."

Mrs Sefton takes Clark entirely at his own valuation. Rather than examine why he wanted so badly to be a Top Person, she resorts to amateur psychology about his relationship with his parents. Nor is the wider question raised of whether the art-world has become some sort of integrated bureaucracy in which even someone as individual and capable as Kenneth Clark must turn into a free-lance functionary and quangoist if he is to have influence. His writings are barely referred to, let alone evaluated. Instead Mrs Sefton scatters about superlatives like "his emergence as the most

brilliant lecturer in Britain", which is too subjective so mean much.

On leaving Oxford, Clark had married Jane Martin. Bent on retiring into public life, Clark remained entirely formal in his memoirs wherever private things were concerned, with the exception of a single sentence about a time when he was cut off from Jane: "Naturally I got into trouble of a kind which I need neither specify nor describe." Here Mrs Sefton comes in for her own, specifying and describing like anything. Kenneth Clark, it is revealed, enjoyed a number of affairs, and one or two of them with ladies whose names are recognizable within small circles.

There was no intention to leave Jane, who did her best to turn a blind eye. This she found harder and harder, and eventually became an alcoholic, whom Kenneth Clark had to cope with as once he had coped with his drunken father. Mrs Sefton's hero-worship has concluded in keyhole-peeping. Those who really want to know who Kenneth Clark's mistresses were, and whose chairs the elderly Jane Clark fell off, will find out from this book, but that is about all they will learn.

seemed to have had everything else. It is just before the Great War. The sense of place and period convinces, the tongue is never too far from the cheek; the implausible never quite runs amok; and all in all this is a stylish and original entertainment.

●The Judas Factor, by Ted Allibury (New English Library, £8.95) Mr Allibury is prolific these days. It seems only yesterday that another hero under another publishing imprint was dancing to his tune in the Horn of Africa. We are nearer home this time. As Nicholson says, "We're not sure but it looks like Berlin. East Berlin." To which our Polish-born, no-longer-young-but-irresistible-to-all-women, hero replies, predictably, "Is this the Yugoslav murder thing?" Well it is, of course; and there is a stifled yawn implicit in the response which is reflected in the book. Mr Allibury does the Yugoslav murder thing with the ghastly upper-class English spymasters and the romantic Anders, "with hard eyes but a benevolent (makes a change from 'generous') mouth" with accomplished fluency. He's better than most, but this time I didn't feel his heart was in it.

●The Last Assassin, by Daniel Easterman (Hodder & Stoughton, £8.95). I never knew that the word assassin derived from "hashashin", meaning "eater of hashish", but Easterman says it does and the OED agrees. There is a lot more recondite information in this fairly densely packed debut, and much of it has to do with the Ayatollah's Iran. A great many loonies display amazing characteristics, such as the ability to put themselves into catatonic trances in order to resist interrogators, blood is spilled remorselessly, and the shanty-bangs rise to a positive, crescendo.

Period rape of the Mona Lisa

Tim Heald

SET A THIEF
By Martin Page
The Bodley Head, £7.95

Difficult to think of an art theft which has not happened since that of the Mona Lisa, particularly when written by someone who has gone to such pains with his research as Mr Page. The theft demands detailed knowledge of the Louvre's security system and Leonardo's theory of ventilation. The author appears to have mastered both. The man who wants the Mona Lisa is J. Pierpoint Morgan - a plausible idea, since Morgan

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THE TIMES DIARY

Political mystery

Mysteriously unobtainable in Belfast yesterday, in either library or bookshop, was a copy of Douglas Hurd's political thriller *Vote to Kill* which the new Northern Ireland Secretary wrote in 1975. It concerns a plot by the IRA to murder the prime minister despite the PM advocating a withdrawal of British troops as a possible solution to the Ulster problem. The *Belfast Telegraph* reporter, who originally reviewed it, was unable to find his copy, despite ransacking his house, to see what Mr Hurd's thinking might be gleaned. Meanwhile, there were fond memories of Jim Prior at the opening on Tuesday of an extension to the UK's most modern toilet roll factory, the Larnac, co Antrim. Mr Prior was invited several weeks ago, but on August 23 his private secretary wrote saying he regretted he would be prevented from attending "by diary commitments".

Not watching

Traditional *Spectator* readers - Tories that is - ring me in alarm having found a coupon offering a 25 per cent discount for SDP supporters, with accolades from Owen et al as "typical *Spectator* readers". The weekly, which has now resorted to flogging *Spectator* T-shirts, says it was a blunder: the coupons should only have been distributed at Buxton, and a gremlin in the machines has been blamed. The Tories, I am assured, will get their own offer in Brighton, but say Labour: "We ran out of steam," says the *Spectator* unconvincingly.

Diplomatic seal

After Libya and the Falklands, I hear British embassies in places such as Nigeria are being equipped with new security devices to protect their executives. At the first warring of whiff of grape-shot, iron gates will close down to seal off the oak-lined offices of the ambassador. The Foreign Office, which says it never discusses security, assures me whatever necessary is being done.

● In joke at the Mirror Group: "Knock, knock." - "Who's there?" - "Bob." - "Bob who?" - "You're fired."

Say the worst

"Fluent linguists specially welcome," say advertisements for recruits to the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, to help in "major disasters in the City of London." Linguists? Well, actually, says FANY, the linguists are needed separately to help at international sporting occasions. Mind you, those can always turn into major disasters. Ask Mary Dekker.

Medical jargon?

Versifying doctor Dannie Absc, brother of MP Leo, must be wondering if there will be a welcome in the valleys when the paperback edition of his autobiography, *A Part in the Family*, is published this month. When it emerged 10 years ago, a bookshop in his native Cardiff returned every single copy having spotted within an Anglo-Saxon expulsive more usually associated with the late Ken Tynan.

Filmsy excuse

Has Shirley "Superwoman" Conran no pride? At a celebration party for her slush novel *Lace*, she told me of the shameless lengths to which she is prepared to go to ensure her books make the silver screen. A film producer has apparently told her that she has been stuck on the major characters were "right out" because of the cost of getting all the film stars together at the same time. "That's why everyone in my book talks on the telephone," she said, adding that all the scenes she sets in exotic locations are extended - to justify the cost of filming.

Sign of trouble

Even in the depths of the recess, fear stalks Westminster's corridors. Old-guard lobby correspondents are nervously awaiting the result of a journalist's inquiry into unattributable ministerial briefings, launched by new lobby chairman Glyn Mathias, of ITN, who was elected on a get-it-on-the-record ticket. Now a note has been stuck on the lobby's private noticeboard reading, "Professional Suicide". It is, of course, unsigned.

● Among candidates contesting the Victoria ward by-election in the London Borough of Ealing today is Josef Joseph-Zawadzki (Independent Conservative - Save the British Heritage).

Right of reply?

Three weeks ago, management consultants Gordon Hunter and Arthur-Flitter set up GRASS, the Get Rid of Arthur Scargill Society. Since then they have spent £2,500 on car stickers and T-shirts and attracted 200 members at £5 a throw. But plans for further expansion have come up against refusals by papers to print their emotive advertisements. In the case of their local paper, *The Staines and District Chronicle*, a blank space appeared in place of the advert after protests from the NGA. Now the left-dominated Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, whose committee includes two NUM members.

PHS

Seeds of a union revolution

by David Hart

The National Working Miners' Committee, the most significant and best organized of the working and wanting-to-work miners' groups, went public at the SDP conference this week. This is not an aberrant clutch of Tory miners. Many are life-long Labour voters, although it is unlikely that many will remain loyal to the party. Nor are they a group of back-to-work Silver Birchies.

They operated in the shadows for eight weeks, not simply because they had all received threats by telephone, not even because some had been assaulted and others had bricks thrown through their windows, not even because the 12-year-old daughter of the chairman of the committee, Colin Clarke, was threatened on the telephone; but because they were determined to shun publicity for its own sake and to seek it only when it would further their aims.

It is a genuinely national committee with men from Wales, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Yorkshire and Nottingham. They are financed by collections at working pits and by contributions from ordinary members of the public sent in response to advertisements placed in the national press. Their finances are audited by a firm of accountants and all payments are first authorized by their solicitors. They have shunned offers of help from "big business" and even from Conservative miners.

One Scottish working miner who wanted to join the committee was rejected solely because he intended to stand in a local election as a Conservative candidate.

Their legal constitution, inter alia, defines their objects as:-
● To secure that the NUM and constituent areas are controlled by and for the benefit of the membership, and to protect the democratic processes of the union.
● To secure the legal rights of all members of the NUM and their relatives and dependants and to protect them from or compensate them for loss arising from abuse of such rights.

Their principal aim is to recapture their union from its present leadership and restore to it the democracy for which it was once justly famed. If there had been a ballot for the strike they would have obeyed the will of the majority. Tony Morris, branch secretary from Lea Hall where a ballot was held, voted to strike. But the majority of his members voted to work and he respected their wishes.

The committee's tactics are, first, to use the courts to enforce their legitimate rights; second, to make propaganda to counter the lies of their leadership.

The committee will finance any

miner who wishes to enforce his rights in the courts if he needs help and if it is advised that he has a reasonable chance of success. Several members of the committee themselves have actions currently before the courts. At least a dozen separate new actions against the union are planned. All actions that have been started have so far been successful.

Apart from meeting the costs of legal advice, the committee uses their funds to give moral and financial assistance to the victims of intimidation. Widows of husbands who have been victims of the violence have been sent discreet cheques. Working miners who have been threatened have been given security advice. All is done quietly, thoroughly, professionally.

Similar men and groups of men are emerging in the docks. They will emerge wherever union leaders try to engineer a strike in support of a political vision that is not shared by their members. That is why last week's TUC conference at Brighton provided one of the more memorable examples of life imitating art. In this case, that of Lewis Carroll. While Arthur Scargill claimed he was striking for the right to work, nearly 50,000 of his members were going to work. While John Connolly

was threatening to bring out the lorry drivers it was becoming increasingly clear that he could not persuade a significant number of his own dockers to back him.

Paradoxically, the bully-boy tactics have created a far more dangerous enemy to NUM hopes. The worst violence for years directed by the union's members against its own members has not only failed to persuade a third of the men to follow him, it has produced, from among the targets of intimidation, a new breed of tough-minded, high-principled leaders.

Some union leaders would do well to consider getting back into touch with their membership and learning to respect its wishes. Some of them may be lucky. Revolutions take a long time. And because they cause great hardship, they are often abandoned. But for the NUM it is already too late. The disastrous misadventure for the welfare of the membership, the violent intimidation practiced by the leadership against the membership, the street warfare, has gone too far. Scargill and his men, sooner or later, are going to be replaced by men of a very different stamp. The next president of the NUM could well emerge from the membership of the National Working Miners' Committee and it is unlikely that he will wait for the present office-holder to retire.

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A private mystery unravelled

Janet Morgan dug up the right clues, and tracked down the real Agatha Christie



Agatha Christie at 80, in 1970. No one knew what to believe.

It began, like many of Agatha Christie's stories, with a stranger arriving at a country house. The visitor had been asked to lunch by people she had never met; the house, set apart in acres of woodland, was secluded among lanes so tangled that she had repeatedly lost the road. When she found the place, a white Georgian house, "serene and aloof", as Agatha herself said once - it seemed deserted. The visitor was, none the less, expected, although at first her hosts gave no sign that they knew why she had come.

I was that visitor - astonished to find myself there, calling on Agatha Christie's family. They were, I suspect, equally surprised. The meeting was even more peculiar because I had come as a potential biographer. All previous claimants had been refused, yet now Agatha's family had before them a person, untried as a biographer, unversed in mystery lit. crit., unknown in the world of detective fiction and the thriller.

Nor do I know why the family took me on. My claim to recent familiarity with Agatha's *oeuvre* was soon rumpled, despite assiduous homework the night before. Perhaps they were anxious to see what would happen: I certainly was. We talked for an hour, thought for a month, and agreed to try it.

I know now why I was interested: to see whether I could do it; to prove the doubters wrong - it's a long shot," people said, "and you're not the right person." There are no papers. "She wrote her own autobiography; it's perfectly adequate; in fact, it's rather good. She was so private. Her family are protective, no one will see you, no one at least, who knows anything." All were, as it turned out, mistaken. Their predictions were the exact opposite of the outcome.

There were, rather, too many papers, sources too keen to be helpful, revelations that clarified mysteries in some respects more usefully kept hidden. The understanding I had with Rosalind Hicks, Agatha's daughter, was that without complete openness and shared trust there was little point in embarking on the project. All that there was, I should see and be free to use. She took me to a small, light study, looking over lawns and down the river; into the drawers and cupboards, she said apologetically, they had put all the relevant material they could find.

The place was, in fact, crammed full. Photographs and press cuttings spilt out of cardboard boxes, shelves buckled under stacks of typescript, magazines, the 1920s packages of correspondence. One drawer contained objects - inkstand, photographs, bits of rock - from Agatha's desk; another the undated script of her memoirs; another the reels of tape on to which she had dictated

her later books. Some papers had been sorted by brave secretaries with time to spare; others by Max Mallowan, Agatha's second husband (who must surely have labelled the envelope marked "Correspondence from Distinguished Contemporaries"). Most was uncatalogued and much, being undated, unsigned, or both, had to wait for me to develop a hit or miss index.

There were marvellous discoveries: an envelope, stuck through with a rusty paperknife, marked "As used on *Murder on the Links*"; a handmade volume of parodies and illustrations, describing "What We Did in the Great War"; packets of letters Agatha sent home from her Empire Tour in 1922, with albums of photographs and ephemera; old address books, engagement diaries, passports, driving licences and account books; her sister's West End play.

And there was more than "papers". In the library were books Agatha read as a child, in the garden trees she had planted. The piano stool held music - not striking - she had written; I slept among furniture she had collected. The firescreen had

been embroidered by one of her grandmothers; I ate peaches from her other grandmother's dessert plates. The house was bursting with Agatha's mysteries, several editions in every language.

Agatha noted in "plotting books" ideas for stories, lists of characters, various notes on plots. In any notebook that came to hand, themes discarded on one occasion would be taken up, perhaps years later, on another. Pages once half-filled might be completed long afterwards. There were 50-odd volumes of this sort.

Keeping control of interviews with Agatha's friends, relations and colleagues was in its own way as awkward. Mrs Hicks had furnished an initial list of 200 names, with appropriate introductions. No one interested, almost everyone was welcoming. Some, indeed, tried too hard, recalling incidents that were only legends, swotting up on Agatha's autobiography before I arrived. Some remembered nothing; I learnt to flannel convincingly. Many expected me to know more than I did at each stage; several begged me to confirm that they themselves were - or were not - the actual inspiration for a plot, the basis of a character. I motored miles, learnt navigation in wild country, tasted remarkable meals ("Agatha's favourite..."). "Oh yes, of course," I learnt strategies for escaping from benevolent, lonely people who pressed me to stay for weeks.

I came to know my subject: how she grew up and began to write, why and how she wrote detective fiction, what were the reasons for her popularity. It was no longer only a public life we could see but a private life as well: Agatha's reticence, her relations with her parents, the nature of her first and second marriages. Even, for people invariably inquire, the story of what happened when she "disappeared" in December, 1926, and the explanation of her fortnight's absence, became more clear. She herself had always refused to talk of that troubled time, until the remaining witnesses' testimony was assembled, scraps of evidence marshalled from private letters and official reports, no one, not even Agatha's family, knew what to believe. If they were nervous, they were also brave.

A biographer learns, and learns to know, too much. Nothing was vetoed; everything is there. The only drawback, as my readers will learn, is that now there are no mysteries, not even in her disappearance, where speculation is, maybe, more comforting than reality. Unless, of course, my own picture of Agatha's life is just another mirage; my whole undertaking, as I often thought throughout, a vivid but extraordinary fantasy.

Agatha Christie: a biography by Janet Morgan will be serialized in *The Times* next week.

The sinking of a nuclear cargo reveals serious loopholes in the law, reports Tony Samstag

But who carries the nuclear can?

The sinking of the French freighter *Mont Louis* off Ostend last month, and the increasingly desperate attempts to salvage its radioactive cargo in stormy Channel seas, have coincided with the routine annual meeting this week in Helsinki of an obscure professional body that will almost certainly find itself unable to talk about anything else.

The public utterances of the International Union of Maritime Insurers will, of course, be brave and considered to a degree, but over drinks, as is usual on such occasions, conversation is likely to be a great deal more spirited. More than one insurer, for a start, might well confess that, although horrified by the plight of the *Mont Louis*, he is pleased that the dramatic nature of the incident will illustrate the enormous loopholes in international regulations governing transport by sea of dangerous cargoes.

One such loophole is Mr Roger Bradley, a specialist at Lloyd's in the insurance of nuclear materials, cargoes and plant. The secrecy and confusion surrounding the freighter and its cargo of 30 containers of uranium hexafluoride have, he says, left him "shattered". Mr Bradley started insuring nuclear risks in 1958 and since 1971 has been nuclear observer to IUMI, although he is not attending this year.

He is most shocked at the implications of the *Mont Louis* incident that "either such regulations as exist are being flouted or there are no regulations at all".

Perhaps nine million separate movements of nuclear cargoes are notified to the International Atomic Energy Agency annually, but a complex network of regulations falls short of requiring ships to identify themselves as carrying dangerous cargoes while on the high seas and even of specifying the types of ships suitable for such work. The United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) alone has initiated almost 30 treaties and protocols covering safety at sea, with two in particular concerned with hazardous substances.

Both the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (Solas) and the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code deal with the construction of ships and containers, navigational practices and definitions of hazardous substances, which total many thousands.

Solas alone has grown to more than 10,000 pages since it entered into force in 1965; but although both Solas and the dangerous goods code have the force of law in most countries, the various IMO guidelines on reporting in systems for ships carrying dangerous cargo are voluntary. Commercial confidentiality, fear of terrorism, and the political charge adhering to radioactive shipments in particular have blocked agreement among the IMO member nations through the years.

The Advisory Commission on Pollution of the Sea (Acops), a London-based watchdog body rep-

resenting international shipping as well as environmental interests, has been a strong critic of the continuing failure to make provisions for indicating "when a vessel is carrying cargo which, if breached, could harm people or the environment".

It was Acops which first described the sinking of the *Mont Louis* as "another Torrey Canyon", to which "one international civil servant, who asked not to be identified, responded: 'Speaking cynically, with the *Mont Louis* we have the magic word 'nuclear' and as with the *Torrey Canyon*, we can identify with it because it happened in our own back garden. If this had happened in the Indian Ocean we'd have heard no more of it."

Mr Bradley, who insists that his concern with the issue is as much environmental as commercial, readily admits the relevance of proximity and public fear of nuclear materials to the interest aroused by the *Mont Louis*, which sank after a collision with the *Olan Britannia*, a German-registered passenger ferry. It is possible, under existing regulations, that not even the captain of the *Mont Louis* was aware of the exact nature of his cargo.

Uranium hexafluoride is a gas used in the fuel enrichment process and transported under pressure, when it becomes a semi-solid "toothpaste" so much so that the UK Atomic Energy Authority has written privately: "The handling of large quantities of hex" has the

potential of becoming a nuclear incident should a critical mass form in the environment and give rise to a nuclear reaction."

The danger is enhanced, the UKAEA notes, "if the material is in the vicinity of neutron moderating materials, even water." The Dutch salvage leader at the scene of the wreck was reported last week to have said: "If one single drop of seawater gets inside one of those containers, it will blow us all to kingdom come." Heat, generated by a "more violent collision or a shipboard fire, would have a similar effect."

However, given the quantity and very low enrichment of the uranium hexafluoride aboard the *Mont Louis*, critically would be a "highly inflammable" even, according to scientists at British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. The worst reaction they would expect would be a "vigorous fizzing" as the hexafluoride came into contact with the water.

Standard questionnaires for the underwriting of nuclear cargo insurance put eight questions, one of which is "Have all relevant permissions for the nature of packaging and voyage been received and complied with?" It is the relevance of those "relevant permissions" that is worrying insurers and environmentalists alike as the white-jacketed waters in Helsinki scurry forward with another round of drinks.

Tony Samstag

Ronald Butt

Why Owen's force needs the masses

Pointedly extended applause was given during the SDP conference to a floor speaker who, interrupting his own appeal for more respect to be paid to democratic socialism, remarked that some people found the left-right debate in the party sterile. The majority of the conference was plainly anxious to put it on record that sterile is exactly the epithet they would choose.

The approved way of looking at these matters is that the SDP offers a new sort of politics designed to break through the old left-right argument, and it is certainly true that Dr Owen's concept of a society that is "competitive" as well as "compassionate" is radically different from that previously offered by political parties seeking to appeal to that constituency in the nation which he seeks to win.

Yet the fact that (for Britain) this is a new kind of politics does not diminish the significance of the left-right argument. On the contrary, it gives point to it. In practical rather than textbook terms, left-wing politics are those which have as their declared priority the intention of promoting by whatever means, the well-being of the mass of the people who (by definition) are less fortunate or have less earning ability than the luckier or cleverer minority.

Throughout this century it has been assumed by the parties appealing especially to them, that this could only be done by collective action and collective power, exerted by the state, not by trade unions on behalf of people who would be too weak to protect themselves adequately if they were left to act as individuals.

There is of course no absolute dividing line between individual and collective action - the insurance principle is collective protection, which is also individual action when it is not imposed by law. Likewise, some degree of collective action so accepted by all parties, not least the Conservatives, who themselves have relied for power on the support of large parts of the working-class vote which dislikes socialism. Yet the fact remains that the parties appealing most specifically to working-class opinion in this century - first the Liberals, but for most of the time the Labour Party - have steadily increased dependence on state action to a point which the individual's freedom and personal responsibility have been threatened.

This has gone hand in hand with trade unionism, the essence of which is the individual's blind obedience to collective decisions, often taken on his behalf by activists who do not consult him. The Labour Party's acceptance of the existence of a private sector in industry has usually also been accompanied by moral distaste and undermined by rhetorical attacks on the moral inferiority of a system based on "private greed". The Labour Party now wishes to outlaw

even the marginal existence of private education and health care that it has previously tolerated.

In the past most democratic socialists, when they have been brought up hard against the inoperability of their party's creed with personal freedom, have given the latter priority. But the contemporary Labour Party is increasingly reluctant to do so - which is why the Social Democrats defected.

It must follow that the place in politics which they seek to occupy is that traditionally described as on the "left", in the sense that it is by definition supposed to operate in the interests of the mass of ordinary working people who have previously seen safety in collective action.

Those on the "left" of the SDP itself fear that it will not succeed in doing so on Dr Owen's formulation, which is why they want to emphasize the socialist connexion, and why they obliged the party conference to amend the motion on "competitiveness" in a direction which seemed less hostile to public ownership, and which gave more scope to such other forms of shared ownership as cooperatives.

Some of them, like Miss Anne Brennan, (from Barnsley) who told the party to its face and to is apparent pleasure, that it was too middle-class and *Guardian*-reading for its own good, fear that it will not get its policies over to working-class voters. Dr Owen, however, assumes that these voters are ready for something new, and in the light of the increasingly middle-class attitudes of so many workers to house buying and family economic commitments, he may be right. The party's acceptance of a credit scheme giving the poor the right to buy council houses was an interesting straw in the wind. So was the idea he unveiled yesterday that privatization should mean giving shares to all adult citizens, and especially workers in the industry - an idea I first heard elaborated, if it doesn't shock Dr Owen, by Professor Milton Friedman.

Nobody can know whether these ideas will appeal to traditionally leftist voters. What can be said is that the idea that Dr Owen has borrowed from the popular right are more likely to appeal to voters from the traditional left than those of the old Jenkinsite connexion, which was elitist in the sense that they believed, as clever and reasonable people, that they knew better and thought more ethically than the voters whose support they needed. The "enlightened" attitudes on a whole variety of subjects from legislation on equality, state education and attitudes to immigration were built on this concept. This kind of approach remains the top dressing of social democracy. But the future of the party depends on whether Dr Owen can carry popular conviction for his ideas, which touch upon the fundamental interests of working-class voters.

John P. Harris

I'll stick with plonk and Monsieur Oo

Somewhere in Languedoc.

Everything from fish fingers to muzak is much the same these days, whether in Reykjavik or Walla Walla. But the sensitive observer can still detect a few differences between England and France.

Peas. The French call them *petit pois*, and they go in for small ones, the smaller the dearer. Tiny round-seeded peas have no flavour, so they have to be cooked with bits of bacon, onions and what-not. If you want big juicy sweet delicious peas in France, you must grow them yourself. Wrinkled-seeded varieties like *Kelvedon Wonder* are sold by the seedsmen, but not by the greengrocer or French canner, by the *épicer*. I am trying to avoid value-judgments in this piece, but I cannot help thinking that the English are one-up in peas.

Balance is restored by the bean situation. In France, runner beans occur only in the flower garden, and are called *haricots d'Espagne*. Their seed pods are not considered edible, even by Frenchpersons devoted to plain living, high thinking and fibrous roughage. Their edible bean, or *haricot vert*, is the British French bean.

Tides on the spines of paperbacks. Lay a paperback upon the table face down. If it is French, the lettering on the spine is the right way up. Penguins are the other way round. This means that you must never put mixed British and French paperbacks on the same shelf if you wish to avoid dislocation of the cerebral vertebrae. Put them on alternate shelves; the head is then tilted one way for one shelf and the other way for the next shelf: pleasant exercise rather than violent waggles.

Foreign languages. Even in these decadent days almost every schoolboy knows that the French speak French instead of English. But non-French words are different, too. *Ad hoc* and *haddock* (which means smoked haddock) are pronounced in precisely the same way. Mrs Thatcher is Madame Tat-share (with the stress on the second syllable). Mr Howe is Monsieur Oo or Monsieur Ov. Mr G. Litty is Monsieur Jolt Ti, though in his native Italy he is Signor Giolitti.

Letters Most English people can and do produce semi-literate scribbles, fairly promptly and more or less to the point. The French educational system, by contrast, is diabolically efficient. Ninety-five per cent of the population, like Belloc's Sarah Bing but for a different reason, end their youth knowing that literature breeds distress. The top five per cent are

like Sarah's brother Bill. He, you remember,

was quite unnaturally keen on *Albion*, by Jean Racine.

If you wait until the second fortnight of January you will get a reply from them, in the form of an eloquent epistle of New Year greetings. The others will telephone you.

If you do happen to write to the French person in a thousand and replies promptly, his or her letter will be so beautiful that you will feel small and uncouth.

The Times and *Le Monde*. These are, of course, the world's top papers. It would ill become one who writes occasionally for both (and who hopes to continue to do so) to try to make a qualitative comparison. However, something can be attempted without actually reading the papers.

Le Monde does not condescend to print news photographs. But this summer it has been running a highbrow comic strip on the subject of population, which would make generations of *Times* people turn in their graves or armchairs, and cause dear old Jane of the *Daily Mirror* to blush all over.

A good *Times* gives one about 70 sq ft of printed surface; *Le Monde* about 35 sq ft. But *The Times* has a much greater advertisement surbit. *The Times* costs 20p, or about 2 francs 30 centimes, or about 3 centimes per square foot. *Le Monde* costs 4 francs (35p), or nearly 12 centimes per square foot. Nevertheless, its circulation is somewhat greater: I am not sure what this proves.

The Times appears on the doorstep in the morning. When we lived in darkest Cornwall, beyond bicycle range of the paper shop, the milkman brought it. *Le Monde* appears on the streets of Paris in the early afternoon. There are no paperboys in France (nor milkmen), so the postman brings it to benighted provincials the next morning.

To keep them happy, Monday afternoon's *Monde* is dated "Tuesday", and so on. This is not a serious deception, as *Le Monde* itself refers to "Monday" issue, dated "Tuesday". But one sometimes has to think out whether "tomorrow" means tomorrow or today (or even yesterday, in the case of Saturday's number, dated Sunday/Monday, arriving Monday).

Plonk. A superior quality costs me 35p the litre, when I collect it from the local cave cooperative, my own jerricans. I've no idea how you manage in London, as I haven't been back there for some time, and now you know why.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE DECIBELS OF DEBT

The knife-edge on which the world's monetary system is perched looks a little less sharp today, after the publication of some mildly cheering reports from those concerned with the management of international debt. First and foremost of these is the International Monetary Fund, whose 147 member governments gather for their annual meeting in pre-election Washington in 10 days' time.

The IMF is the international financial institution which attempts to administer a "code of conduct" in monetary affairs, and offers temporary financing for members with external payments problems, on condition their governments accept economic policy advice. As such its relationships have not been easy, either with its Latin American borrowers, or with its lords and paymasters, the major industrial governments which dominate its executive board. The IMF's annual report, published yesterday, is stiff with warnings against economic bad behaviour by both the world's advanced and developing economies.

Such exhortations are common to most international economic reports in the uncomfortable 1980s. Where the IMF offers a gleam of encouragement is in its forecasts of world economic prospects, which are yet to be formally published but are given in some detail on another page. These show that the IMF is optimistic about economic growth both this year and next, most notably in the United States, but with the rest of the world lagged along behind.

As the report on international debt published simultaneously by Lord Lever's committee of commonwealth experts makes plain, economic growth is critical to the world's ability to float

itself off the international debt mountain. Citing IMF projections, the Lever report demonstrates that assumptions of steady improvement in debt management depend critically on world economic growth rates of three to four per cent a year. Now the IMF is forecasting growth of three and a half per cent in 1985, a year in which a slowdown was confidently expected; just enough to ease the good ship International Banking off the rocks, provided the crew are disciplined and skilful and the passengers do not panic.

Yet the "ifs" which crowd off the pages of the Lever report also litter the more sober text of the IMF review. Growth is not enough, if it is unbalanced. The inflationary dangers of America's budget deficit have been checked by monetary policies which have imposed high interest rates on the world. But partly because of these, and partly because of home-grown economic troubles, Europe has failed to reach its growth potential. This, in turn, has helped to distort the balance of payments between America and its sluggish economic partners; and the more rapid increase in American imports has stoked up protectionist pressures.

In election year, American politicians have proved naturally reluctant to tell voters they ought to be able to make a living in an economy expanding by over seven per cent without shutting out the products of their competitors. But once upon, those barriers are hard to bring down—particularly as growth slows. Those governments urged to earn their way back to solvency through higher exports are fairly complaining about the obstacles in their path.

But the greatest cause for encouragement in both the Lever

and the IMF reports is the sense of incipient reasonableness, of something a little closer to common agreement, in the views of debtors and creditors on the proper route back towards financial stability in this dangerous and uncertain world. Even the second debtors summit of Latin American nations now taking place shows signs of moderation. The debt saga has not, for all the unwisdom of its political participants, degenerated into a showdown between the North and South, the world's "haves" and "have-nots". Just about in time, the negotiators on both sides have shown flexibility and intelligence in two years since Mexico's first warning of insolvency, bankers and governments have learnt to look for a variety of solutions to individual debt problems.

The crisis is far from over. So long as there is a bill to pay, in cash or kind, there will continue to be disagreement as to whether borrowers, bankers and governments should pick it up. There will continue, most obviously, to be rogue debtors. The Lever report is, indeed, a loud warning against complacency; at the same time, it proposes a variety of solutions which will not be accepted either by all major governments or all big bankers. But the essential point is its variety—and the variety of different proposals it cites from other sources, either for the introduction of loan guarantees or the limitations of interest-rate burdens, or the encouragement of direct investment inflows into developing countries to ease the need for sovereign borrowing. As the world economy rolls this way or that, a different basket of these palliatives may become necessary. While they are so plainly on offer, the participants have no excuse for inaction—still less for confrontation.

ing targets, but the implication of his own policy is that he would willingly have them higher. He wants more spending on conventional weapons without saying how it is to be paid for or how the weapons are to be manned, and demands the scrapping of Trident which would ultimately put a conventionally armed Britain at risk of unanswerable nuclear threat.

Perhaps most surprising was his suggestion for dealing with privatisation by giving shares in nationalised industries to all adult citizens, with preferential allotments to workers in those industries. But how many shares would each get, in, say British Telecom? Since he says that these shares could be sold on the market, how could this donation also substitute (as he claims) for sustainable tax cuts in the case of those who sold their allotments? Wider share ownership is beneficial but it is not helped by ill-thought-out exercises of this sort.

Dr Owen has had a charmed life for the past year. He has great political flair and much common sense. What he says often responds to what sensible, ordinary people think. He has an undisputed position in his party and the characteristics of a leader. He understands better than most the change that Mrs Thatcher has brought to the political scene and is trying to act on it—which is why he is at pains to appear not to do so. But he began this conference better than he ended it. He is showing signs of over-confidence and of changing his luck. Especially in the new politics, politicians who aim to lead should think before they speak.

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SORTING THE MAIL

The Monopolies Commission report on postal services in London and three provincial centres is by no means a damning indictment of the Post Office, which has maintained the best postal service in Europe and, in recent years, made more than enough profits to finance itself. But it does present a typical picture of the difficulties of running a state monopoly with urgency, against the stultifying background of management and union traditions built up on the assumption of unchanging products and methods rather than in the atmosphere of the day-to-day realism and speed of response that competition should bring.

National delivery targets are continually missed, financial control and targets over-centralised, detailed work measurement rudimentary, mechanisation and computer control programmes delayed and their benefits dissipated, movement to exploit new technologies bogged down by union fears.

These are problems of monopoly regardless of ownership. The benefits of public control of

such a monopoly are evident in the Monopolies Commission inquiry itself and in the report's review of action on recommendations in its 1980 report on the posts in Inner London, which have clearly been taken to heart and in most cases acted on. Fear of the Commission, and to a lesser extent of user bodies, combined with Government-imposed financial and efficiency targets, have led to much progress under the Post Office's present top management and its chairman, Sir Ronald Dearing. Customers care, as any always will of a large-scale service like the banks or building societies that touches our daily lives; but the Post Office does not present a serious national problem.

But is that any reason to stick with a second best solution when allowing competition on postal services could free the Post Office to operate on a fully commercial basis outside the public sector?

Service within London and between London and the provincial centres examined is not up to scratch and this is just the sort of business that would attract a private competitor. Niggling

labour disputes seem on the increase as the Post Office struggles to become more commercial and competing firms might secure an alternative postal service better than can currently be mustered when the monopoly is temporarily lifted during strikes. Moreover, the Post Office, with three quarters of its overheads in wages seems a suitable case for a management/worker buyout.

A universal postal service remains an important part of the nation's infrastructure and should not be jeopardized. At present, rural services are subsidized by those in urban areas—a reversal of the geographical subsidy in many other public services. A fully competitive Post Office could not be expected to maintain uneconomic services, which are, in some ways, more vital than in cities. Cable and other electronic services are unlikely to reach rural areas and there is no reason to suppose that any competitor would step into the breach. Differential pricing may provide an answer. It would not be politically popular but should be more seriously considered.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Other choices in airlines' battle

From the Chairman of the Consumers' Association

Sir, As a cabinet decision on the future shape of British Airways draws closer, the public debate has concentrated on whether the Government should adopt or reject the Civil Aviation Authority's proposals. British Airways' vigorous opposition has had the effect of making the CAA plan take on the proportions of a revolutionary change in the structure of the industry. But in reality it is no more than a minor adjustment to the competitive balance, and the first question the cabinet must address is not whether to adopt the CAA proposals, but whether the CAA proposals go far enough towards creating a genuinely competitive industry.

The most alarming aspect of the CAA plan is that it proposes to leave untouched the BA monopoly as the only British airline operating international services from Heathrow. "Competing" British airlines would have to operate from Gatwick.

Such an arrangement would constitute real competition if the two airports were adjacent and enjoyed matching ranges of connection flights. But they're not, and they don't—so, for most people choosing a flight, it's the airports which would be in competition and not the airlines.

There is now ample evidence of the benefits of direct competition between airlines on exactly the same route. Even in the medium or long term, this goal may be achievable on only a minority of international routes; but the CAA should nevertheless be making arrangements which will encourage its achievement. Where this goal is impracticable, the spur of competition can still be applied to BA by allowing other airlines to take over BA routes wherever they can demonstrate an ability to offer better service or lower prices, or both.

But neither of these competitive mechanisms can be employed effectively unless other airlines are first given the opportunity to become established at Heathrow alongside BA, so that they can be

poised to join them or replace them on particular routes at the drop of the CAA's hat.

If the Government genuinely believes that airlines—like other businesses—should have to compete for customers, they must go beyond the CAA proposal. If they don't, they will be leaving a privatised British Airways with a privileged and protected grip on international services from the most important airport in the world.

Yours faithfully,
RACEL WATERHOUSE,
Chairman,
Consumers' Association,
14 Buckingham Street, WC2,
September 12.

From Lord Kings Norton
Sir, Until the recent inquiry by the Civil Aviation Authority, the last authoritative investigation into British civil air transport was that of the Committee chaired by Sir Ronald Edwards which reported in 1969.

The Committee's two most important recommendations were that a civil aviation authority should be created to be responsible for air transport safety and economics and that the private sector should develop "a second force airline which should be licensed to operate a viable network".

The first recommendation was implemented and the Civil Aviation Authority has undoubtedly justified the advice of the Edwards Committee. Its knowledge of our air transport system is comprehensive and there can be no body better fitted to offer an opinion on its structure. It has in effect recommended steps which would take us nearer to the second force airline concept of its creator, the Edwards Committee. With two such authoritative bodies in broad agreement, I feel that the idea of a second airline strong enough to offer competition to the major operator must be right.

Yours faithfully,
KINGS NORTON,
Westcote House,
Chipping Campden,
Gloucestershire,
September 12.

Masons and the clergy

From Canon G. B. Bentley

Sir, A good many years ago a reasoned motion was tabled in the Lower House of the Canterbury Convocation expressing disquiet about the involvement of clergymen in Masonry and calling for an inquiry. Its sponsors feared, inter alia, that commitment to a secret brotherhood could impair a pastor's relationship with the non-Masons in his cure.

Unhappy with the complexity of this motion, I tabled an amendment that simply asked for the appointment of a joint committee to consider and report on the matter.

This is what happened. When the time came the Proprietor who was in the chair that day (a Mason) ruled the reasoned motion out of order, whereupon I put forward my amendment in its place. On that table was reported to the Archbishop (another Mason) he turned the Proprietor to see that it was quashed. I had that on the testimony of a person who was in the Upper House at the time.

When my motion was reached, our Masonic chairman informed me that I could put it, but not make my speech. I declined to move on those terms and the motion lapsed. I should, of course, have contested the ruling, but I was too flabbergasted to do so at that time. After the session, pressmen present commented to me on the patent antagonism of the Chair.

Subsequently I had some correspondence with the Archbishop, who promised that a request for an inquiry would be moved during the next group of sessions of the Church Assembly and assured me that that would clear the matter up.

Relics of a Saxon king

From Dr Douglas Sobey

Sir, I read with some dismay in your September 6 edition that the reputed bones of King Edward the Martyr, King of England from 975-979, and older brother of King Ethelred (another Mason) he turned the Proprietor to see that it was quashed. I had that on the testimony of a person who was in the Upper House at the time.

When my motion was reached, our Masonic chairman informed me that I could put it, but not make my speech. I declined to move on those terms and the motion lapsed. I should, of course, have contested the ruling, but I was too flabbergasted to do so at that time. After the session, pressmen present commented to me on the patent antagonism of the Chair.

Subsequently I had some correspondence with the Archbishop, who promised that a request for an inquiry would be moved during the next group of sessions of the Church Assembly and assured me that that would clear the matter up.

Alliance of principle

From Mr C. R. Smallwood

Sir, You describe as "an unresolved question" (leader, September 11) Mrs Shirley Williams' assertion that the Alliance is "not an alliance of expediency but a lasting alliance of principle".

I suggest however—as the SDP's Policy Director at the time and the person responsible for drafting it—that no fair-minded person could read the manifesto on which the two parties fought the last election and fail to appreciate the extent to which an alliance of principle has been formed.

Electoral reform for a new style of government and politics; proposals for a radical redistribution of income; the extension of democracy both within the trade unions and in industry; decentralisation of government; the promotion of minority and civil rights; the anti-unemployment policy; commitment

Surely the bones of an English king should—after full scientific/forensic investigation—be respectfully intended with appropriate ceremony in an appropriate place—such as Westminster Abbey. Any scientific support for the documentary evidence on the violent death of the king would be of great interest to tenth-century historians.

If authenticated, the bones would be the oldest known remains of any English king prior to Edward the Confessor—excepting the jumbled remains of some pre-Conquest kings in mortuary chests at Winchester Cathedral.

It seems to me ludicrous that the bones of any English king—or of any English person for that matter—should belong to the owner of the land on which they are found.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS SOBEY,
75 South Parade,
Belfast,
September 7.

to Europe and aid for the poorest countries—these are the commitments underpinning what Shirley Williams said, and I cannot see either party disowning any of them. Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SMALLWOOD
64B Princes Way,
Wimbledon,
London SW19,
September 11.

Non appearance

From Mr M. M. George

Sir, Is it something of a record that not one of the current England XI featured in your leading first-class batting averages published today (August 30)? Yours sincerely,
M. M. GEORGE,
The Botley,
Bechland,
Newick,
East Sussex,
August 30.

Decline in aid for technical research

From Dr Jeremy Bray, MP for Motherwell South (Labour)

Sir, I hope that ministers and officials catching up on their reading after the holidays will give high priority to the damning report by the Science and Engineering Research Council on *Support of Research Grants*. It concludes that in a majority of its research fields some 30 per cent of applications which would have been funded in the past are not now receiving support. If this process were to continue indefinitely, the report says, it would result in a major crisis in the development of the UK's science and engineering.

The problem arises from effective cuts in the science budget, both through inadequate indexing of costs used by the Treasury in the science budget itself, and also indirectly from the cuts in university grants. There has been no decline in standards of assessing applications. In some subjects standards have risen as a result of new opportunities in science which Britain is failing to exploit.

Programmes of applied research on which the Government has concentrated, such as information technology, suffer conspicuously from the lack of sound scientific foundations for their technical aspirations.

By contrast, under President Reagan, in the United States funding for research in basic civil sciences has increased by 40 per cent in real terms, with the National Science Foundation receiving cash increases of 17 per cent last year and 15 per cent this year. The increase in applied research and development funding, albeit entirely in defence which is given a very wide interpretation in the US, has been five times as great as that in basic civil research in absolute terms.

In Britain the Medical Research Council has approved only 53 per cent of alpha quality research applications for 1983/4, by contrast

with 87 per cent in 1982/83, and 100 per cent in 1978/79. The Natural Environment Research Council has approved only 40 per cent of alpha quality applications. With its depleted funds and a drastic reduction in Department of Energy participation, NERC is unable to sustain UK participation in the new international programme of ocean drilling, which is opening up new insights into sedimentary basin evolution and the disposition of the world's mineral resources.

The Agricultural Research Council suffered most severely from the Ministry of Agriculture failing to undertake, from its agricultural support funds, the financing of practical and immediately rewarding applied research, which should not properly be a part of the science budget at all.

On the very centre of the Government's economic strategy, the Economic and Social Research Council is unable adequately to support the fundamental research programmes which can test and improve upon the Governments economic and financial strategy. The Treasury itself has been taking over without payment the research results and computer programmes developed with ESRC research grants, while the original researchers are denied the prospect of continued funding for work on which the Treasury is itself depending. In any serious negotiation on international monetary reform Britain would now have to depend on the technical work of the staff of the US Federal Reserve Board.

It is an overall picture of intellectual atrophy going far beyond damage done to the reputation of the government, to sapping the vitality of science, engineering, and their application in Britain far into the future.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BRAY,
House of Commons,
September 11.

Divided Europe

From Lord Gladwyn

Sir, The notion that Europe was divided up at Yalta into two halves (Sir Bernard Braine, September 7) is a myth. It was divided up as the result of the occupation of most of its eastern regions by the Russian army following on the successful war against the Nazis.

Whatever may be thought about the Communist regimes then imposed by the Soviet Government on the "liberated" Eastern European countries, they are greatly preferable to the appalling fate which would have been in store for them had the Nazis won.

That they did not win was very largely the result of the heroic resistance of the Russian people. And there is a rather natural feeling in Russia that in no circumstances must Eastern Europe again be the base for yet another assault by "the West" on the Russian motherland.

This does not excuse Russian

failure to live up to guarantees—reluctantly extracted from them as the result of strong UK pressure at Yalta—regarding the installation of genuinely democratic regimes in the "liberated" countries. But it explains it.

In any case, short of actually breaking with the Soviet Union at the end of the war—which would have been politically quite impossible—there was nothing for it but to accept the resulting situation under protest.

The thing now is not to give the impression that unless the Russians agree to an end to Communist control of the countries concerned, so much the worse for them; but rather to persuade them that a gradual relaxation of such control will be in their own long-term interests. But it will be a long time before they will willingly agree to some reunification of Germany.

Yours faithfully,
GLADWYN,
62 Whitehall Court, SW1.

Post script

From Mrs Nicolette Gray

Your correspondents, Sir Patrick Nairne (August 25) and Mr Robert Purves (September 6) advocate, one the teaching of the italic hand, the other the revival of the copperplate model, to counteract the undoubted decline in contemporary handwriting.

Neither of these solutions, however, takes into account the crucial fact that today we have a new pen, the ball-point, which has characteristics and qualities which are very different from those of the square cut dip-pen and the flexible pointed nib, upon which the principles governing these earlier styles were formed.

The ball-point makes a continuous line which is virtually undifferentiated in width. The problem in finding a model is not so much one of how single letters should be formed, as one of how letters should be combined, and where breaks should be made. Ligatures of letters which are frequently found together (or pronounced as one sound) also link the learning of writing with that of reading and spelling.

Instead of facing this problem teachers are, however, wedded to the practice of making children copy saucer type design—letters from which all ligatures and joining strokes have been eliminated. This

Counsel in court

From The Recorder of London

Sir, I have had my attention drawn to an article in *The Mail on Sunday* of September 9 which contains one total mis-statement of which I have personal knowledge. I would very much like to correct it.

The paper says "By leaving part of a case to a junior counsel, the senior barrister can quite legitimately pop down the corridor and take part in another trial in which he is briefed".

Since the whole of the article is about Senior Treasury Counsel at the Central Criminal Court, I have no doubt that this paragraph was intended to mean, and will have been read as meaning, that Senior Treasury Counsel in this Court make a practice of doing just that.

I have sat here continuously for nine years and I have never experienced it, except when Senior Treasury Counsel has concluded the entirety of the evidence and made his speech to the jury, when he or she has on very rare occasions asked for my permission to go and start another complex case in another court leaving a competent junior to take a note of my summing up and to be in court until the jury returns its verdict.

Finally, if there ever had been such a practice, it would long since have had an end put to it.

practice is based on the axiom that there is only one form for each letter. One has only to think of letters such as a, b, r to realise that this is a fallacy.

We need a new research and a new policy based on the fact that writing is a question of movement as well as shape, and that the instrument of today is the ball-point (and its variants).

Yours faithfully,
NICOLETTE GRAY,
Dawbers House,
Long Wittenham,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.

Catholic presidency

From Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC

Sir, Your diarist writes (September 11) that the removal of the Duke of Norfolk from the presidency of the Catholic Union may follow protest from the Catholic Group Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice and referred to my support of this group in 1982.

I supported the group over their stand for the retention of liturgical tradition and the right to celebrate the Tridentine Mass. I do not in any way support the attempt to strip the Duke of his presidency of the Catholic Union.

Yours faithfully,
RAWLINSON,
House of Lords.

Liberation theology

From Mr N. E. Cox

Sir, At the heart of the debate on the theology of liberation in Latin America, there is a very simple but fundamental question. After a prolonged historical association with political absolutism of the right, can the Catholic Church now risk becoming closely identified with an absolutism of the left?

Marxism and democracy appear to be incompatible in Latin America—and perhaps elsewhere.

Yours truly,
N. E. COX,
(British Ambassador to Ecuador 1974 to 1977 and to Mexico 1977 to 1981),
36 Meadow Road,
Malvern Link,
Worcestershire,
September 8.

Living dangerously

From Mrs S. M. Porrer

Sir, A brand of white spirit we used to buy when the children were small carried two instructions: "Keep away from children". "Do not drink".

I used to reflect that if I could manage the former, I should have less difficulty in complying with the latter.

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA PORRER,
4 Fallowfield,
Kibworth Beauchamp,
Leicestershire.

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

First but not the last accountancy merger

As foretold here on Tuesday, Price Waterhouse and Deloitte Haskins & Sells, through senior partners, Mr. Jeffrey Bowman and Mr. Eric Meade, yesterday confirmed that they are having merger discussions. Parallel talks are taking place with a view to combining their accountancy practices in countries outside the United Kingdom, of which the United States is paramount. The practical obstacles may be hard to negotiate; the ends they have in mind may not be attainable without loss and pain; but unless hell freezes, merge they will. Big, if not beautiful, is seen as desirable in a world where clients, national as well as multinational, are themselves growing in size and power.

"The interdependence of business in the world economy" and the opportunity for a mammoth firm - PW-DHS would rank first in size in the world league - "to enhance further the quality and range of independent services provided to multinational and domestic clients" are the first and second reasons offered for merging. The third is the prospect of greater financial resources to develop technical and research muscle, and for more investment in the high technology modern accountancy demands. The fourth, unstated, reason is that big firms with high overheads can no longer live well by audit fees alone. Insolvency and tax work may pay for the deep pile to be regularly renewed, but it is consultancy fees where profitable growth lies.

There are voices in the profession already pouring scorn on the projected merger, forecasting both internal difficulties among staff and problems of location and loss of important clients either because the promised "new" service will fall short of the old, or straight conflicts of interest when two distinguished client lists are made one. It is, however, indisputable that together Price, Waterhouse, which traditionally has scorned mergers from its august place of power in the profession, and Deloitte, which owes much of its growth to them, would leap to first place in the US, this country and the world.

THE ACCOUNTANTS BUSINESS

| | Price Waterhouse | Deloitte Haskins & Sells |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Worldwide Personnel | 28,000 | 26,000 |
| Offices | 360 | 425 |
| Countries | 95 | 69 |
| Revenues | \$1,150m | \$940m |
| UK Personnel | 3,100 | 3,500 |
| Offices | 19 | 20 |
| Revenues | £28.8m | £28.8m |

Their margin at the top in the US, where they currently occupy fifth and seventh place, would not be great but they could not afford to continue lagging behind Arthur Andersen, Peat Marwick Mitchell, Coopers & Lybrand and Ernst & Whinney in the most important market.

The merged firm's number one position in the UK would be much more marked. The immediate question therefore is whether others among the Big Eight (or is it nine?) will feel compelled to leap between the sheets, Arthur Andersen and perhaps Peats are big enough and confident enough to remain independent. Not so probably, Touche Ross and Arthur Young.

Will the lifebelt be too late for Dunlop?

The shares of stricken Dunlop Holdings eased 4p to 38p on a newspaper report that the Bank of England was in effective control of Dunlop's finances and was battling to save the company. Neither report nor price movement were helpful considering that part of the salvage package is a conversion of about £100m Dunlop debt into equity.

The Bank of England denied it is any more involved in Dunlop than in any other industrial rescue. Its good offices are available to the 46 banks engaged in saving Dunlop, led by Barclays and National Westminster, but it is not

involved in the negotiations. They are between Dunlop and the banks.

The rescue operation, which should produce a capital restructuring plan, has fallen well behind schedule. The lifebelt was expected to be cast in August. It should now be tossed in the first half of October, soon after Dunlop announce its interim figures.

Although the figures are expected to show an improvement at the pretax level to profits of £10m to £15m against £2m in first half 1983, there will be large losses after hefty minorities and tax. The improvement at the trading level could spell new problems in the need for more working capital. Acrow too was seeing an improvement in the trading picture, but bankers finally threw in the towel because of overwhelming debts. Arguably, the banks will not dare to throw in the towel on a name like Dunlop, but they have dared with other household names before.

Even with conversion of £100m debt - borrowing were over £400m with £350m short term at the last balance sheet date - there will have to be some disposals to get gearing down. South African operations, which are profitable, are the old favourite.

Institutions are likely to be asked to stump up for £60m to £100m of new shares in Dunlop. The dilution implied would leave earnings per share looking meagre. Rescue may be near but salvation for shareholders is a very long way off.

Fast answers needed on investor protection

This week's meeting of officials representing the world's leading stock markets could not be more sensitively timed. The hosts, the London Stock Exchange, are playing down its significance as being merely one of a long-running occasional series in which views are gathered on matters of mutual interest.

That is, of course, true. But, as our own practitioners in the securities industry are only too well aware, events are moving at an unprecedentedly fast pace and galloping technology is pulling the various trading floors as close as a clutch of corner shops.

That has immediate significance for the fraught question of investor protection. Some staff at the very notion in the face of 24-hour electronics dealing and the present hotch-potch of possibly 50 different settlement systems. There is no doubt that the principal stock markets are going to find themselves in sharp competition with one another. That will pose harsh questions for delegates to the London meeting from secondary exchanges such as Paris, Toronto and Sydney.

A growing lobby in London is already arguing that if the British Government imposes too many safeguards, it will simply frighten the big players elsewhere.

The regulators will not have many chances to devise a workable system after they disperse this weekend. It is unfortunate that they are to debate these vital issues in the absence of any representatives from what is under some definitions the world's biggest stock market, Tokyo.

There is a hard-nosed poker game taking place between the authorities of London and Tokyo regarding the terms under which they will admit one another's traders to one another's financial markets. Each fears that it will be swamped if it lets the others in too quickly. Eventually this logjam will be broken by the sheer weight of business which will find its way round increasingly antiquated rules.

The pace of change is having a destabilizing effect. New York is becoming resigned to the closure of its trading floor, and London may ultimately follow suit. Meanwhile, tensions are flourishing among those who are ready and eager to leap into the new freedoms which are being dangled before them, and those who wish to dally.

The date for London's "big bang" is moving inexorably back, and it may come hard up against the Government's deadline of December 1986. By then, not a few tempers may have frayed to breaking point.

By Sarah Hogg in London and Bailey Morris in Washington

The performance of the world economy, powered largely by strong recovery in the United States, is proving much stronger than expected, according to the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF, which yesterday published its annual report, struck a cheerful note clearly intended to set the tone for its annual meeting of member governments in Washington, which begins in 10 days' time.

Its 147 members include both the big Latin American debtor governments at present holding their second summit meeting and the big industrial governments whose bankers are burdened by international debt.

The IMF is clearly anxious to avoid a confrontation between these two groups in any of its key committee meetings, and its new forecasts will help to encourage both sides to believe the debt problem is manageable.

Expressing strong optimism, IMF officials indicated their belief that the worst of the global debt crisis had passed, largely because of growth in the world economy last year and early this year which was "significantly better."

The strong recoveries in the United States and Canada, which led to a surge of imports

Gatt calls for effort

By Michael Prest

A renewed commitment to the principles and practice of an open international trading system is necessary if the present revival of the world economy is to be sustained, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade says in its annual report, published yesterday.

Gatt, which is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and was set up after the Second World War to promote a trading system free of discriminatory barriers, estimates that world trade grew by 2 per cent last year, to regain the level attained in 1980-81. The improvement has quickened into 1984.

After an absolute decline in 1982, world trade in manufactures grew last year by 4 per cent in volume terms.

Strong demand from industrial countries, particularly the United States, attracted a 9 per cent or \$10,000m (£7,800m) increase in the value of manufactured exports from developing countries.

Whereas the industrial countries' terms of trade improved by 2 per cent, those of oil-importing developing countries fell by 0.5 per cent.

The report says: "A determined effort of the major countries to roll back protectionist forces could support and prolong the recovery, domestically and abroad."

First-half profit for Woolworth

Woolworth Holdings, the group which includes the high street stores, made a pretax profit of £400,000 for the six months to the end of July, against a £5.4m loss for the same period of last year.

The interim dividend is raised from 2p net to 3.5p net, but that is partly to reduce the disparity between the first and second-half payouts and is not a guide to the final increase.

Revamping the stores, cutting stocks, and increased rents for the stores caused losses at F W Woolworth to rise by £10m to £24.5m. But B&Q, the do-it-yourself chain, turned in £11.7m, against £8.5m, and Comet, the electrical discount group, bought in April, made a £1.7m profit. *Tempos, page 19*

● BTR, the industrial holding company, has increased pretax profits for the half-year to June 30 from £58m to £115m. This year's figures, however, include the results of Thomas Tilling, which was taken over in 1983. Turnover increased from £348m to £1,561m. The interim dividend of 5.75p is up from 4p last time. *Tempos, page 19*

● COSTAIN, the construction group, has lifted pretax profits from £16.25m to £17.25m for the six months to June 30. Turnover increased from £314m to £366m. The interim dividend is increased to 6p, against 5.5p last time. *Tempos, page 19*

Vital day for Airship

Today will be crucial for shareholders in Airship Industries, the loss-making airship company. Details are due to be published of the rescue package proposed by Mr Alan Bond, the Australian entrepreneur.

The company still awaits the special work category certificate for the 500 model, which allows it to fly carrying advertisements and non-paying passengers. This is expected "within days". It will be several months before the ships can take paying passengers in Britain.

Airship Industries includes several City institutions among its shareholders, some of whom paid up to 140p for their shares. The rescue deal is based on a price of 1p a share.

US leads stronger growth than expected, says IMF

IMF WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

| Current account balances (\$bn) | | | | Growth (% change in real gnp) | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 |
| US | -42 | -30 | -115 | US | 3% | 7% | 4% |
| Japan | +21 | +35 | +40 | Japan | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| All industrial economies | -19 | -51 | -67 | Europe | 1% | 2% | 2% |
| Non-oil develop economies | -85 | -58 | -59 | Non-oil develop economies | 2% | 5% | 3% |
| | | | | All industrial economies | 2% | 5 | 3% |
| | | | | Non-oil develop economies | 1% | 3% | 4% |

In its world economic outlook, to be released at the annual meeting on September 24, the IMF noted that it had revised upwards its figures for growth in the United States this year to more than 7 per cent.

The IMF's forecasts for the industrial world as a whole showed a slowdown next year, but a respectable growth rate of 3½ per cent, and for the non-oil developing countries it was

forecasting an acceleration of growth to more than 4 per cent next year.

Among the leading industrial economies, the United States was forecast to enjoy a further decline in unemployment, and the IMF was expecting small reductions in European unemployment as well.

Inflation, however, was expected to increase in the United States, but growth has been accomplished without a resurgence of inflation in the seven largest industrial economies as a group.

The overall rate dropped to its lowest level in 15 years, the report said. In addition, the current account deficit of the non-oil developing countries declined significantly last year, to about one-half the record level of 1981.

Despite the strong growth and good news on inflation, there were still grave problems facing the world, particularly the huge budget deficits in the United States and elsewhere, the turbulence in exchange rates and the recent increase in interest rates.

But the agents tone was in sharp contrast to earlier reports in which it criticized the United States for its deficits and gave stroke warnings about the global debt crisis.

IMF officials outlined their belief that the global debt crisis had moved into a manageable stage.

As a result, they said M. Jacques De Larosiere, the IMF's managing director, would not recommend another allocation of special drawing rights in the belief that there was not a long-term global need for this additional liquidity.

In addition, the important question of increased access to the IMF's resources, which was on the agenda for the annual meeting along with the SDR issue, was not expected to result in any changes, IMF officials said.

Buenos Aires 'close to deal'

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Agreement on Argentine economic goals appeared close yesterday, with Argentine newspapers reporting a signed deal with the International Monetary Fund likely "in a matter of hours".

At the same time, preparations were going ahead for today's opening of the second formal meeting of the Cartagena group of 11 Latin American debtor nations in the Argentine resort of Mar del Plata.

Participants gave a warning against expecting dramatic pronouncements.

Argentine officials have on several occasions announced that an agreement is imminent, only to have negotiations collapse later. But independent sources who are usually well

informed said that "this time there seems to be real progress". According to published reports, the IMF technical team has agreed in principle to grant Argentina a \$1.4 billion standby loan in exchange for President Alfonsín agreeing to implement a mutually agreed austerity programme for 18 months. (The technical team's recommendation must first be approved by the IMF's board).

Government sources said that Argentina was anxious to reach an agreement before Saturday, when it must pay \$750m of an overdue "bridge loan".

The meeting of ministers from the debtor nations seeking a joint approval to the region's debt problems is expected to produce a softer line than the last gathering in June, when Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Colombia called the regional conference in Cartagena, Colombia to protest against a rise in world interest rates and to discuss the viability of a "debtors' cartel".

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Dollar hangs round DM3

The dollar hesitated around the 3 Deutsche mark level yesterday amid uncertainty about the short-term trend in American interest rates. Having touched DM 3.0015 at one point it closed unchanged on the day in London at DM 2.9975.

The pound was firm, helped by the continuing talks on solving the miners' dispute. It closed up 0.1 on its trade-weighted index at 78.0 and up 20 points at \$1.2790 against the US dollar.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1103.5 up 0.4 (high: 1103.5; low: 1101.3)
FT Index: 857.6 down 0.4
FT All Share: 520.92 down 0.77
Bargains: 18; unchanged
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 101.89 down 0.1
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 199.54 up 1.66
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,553.54 up 40.44
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 332.40 down 13.56
Amsterdam: 166.6 up 1.4
Sydney: AO Index 718.1 up 3.7

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.2790 up 20pts
Index 78.0 up 0.1
DM 3.0025 up 0.0025
FF 11.7880 up 0.0440
Yen 313.96 up 0.71
Dollar Index 139.9 down 0.2
DM 2.9975 unchanged
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.2775
Dollar DM 2.9985
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.58635
SDR £0.78584

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 10.5
Finance houses base rate 11½
Discount market loans week fixed 10½-10½
3 month interbank 10½-10½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11½-11½
3 month DM 5½-5½ 3 month Fr 11½-11½
US rates:
Bank prime rate 13.00
Fed funds 11½
Treasury long bond 100-101½
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period August 8 to September 1984, inclusive: 10.806 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$339.50 pm \$338.50
close \$338.50-338 (226.50-265)
New York (latest): \$718.35
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$349-350.50 (\$272.75-273.75)
Sovereigns (new):
\$80-81 (\$26.75-63.50)
Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bankers in crisis talks

Signor Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, governor of the Bank of Italy, opens a two-day conference in Rome today designed to improve international banking supervisory mechanisms in the light of banks' recent difficulties, ranging from those of Continental Illinois to the collapse of Italy's Banco Ambrosiano.

The meeting, where 86 countries will be represented, is expected by the Italians to discuss the examination of consolidated balance sheets of international banking groups. Problems of inspection in the light of differing national legislations, and the need for banks to have adequate capital resources.

● MR BARRY DILLER, 42, head of Paramount Pictures, will resign at the end of this month to become chairman and chief executive of the rival 20th Century Fox studios, replacing Mr Alan Hirschfeld, who announced his resignation this week. Mr Diller has made Paramount one of the most successful film companies with pictures like Grease, Saturday Night Fever, Raiders Of The Lost Ark, and Indiana Jones And The Temple Of Doom.

Chapman family to sell Lotus stake

By Jeremy Warner

The Chapman family is to sell its 20 per cent share stake in Lotus, ending an association which goes back to 1958 when Mr Colin Chapman founded the sports-car manufacturer from a converted stable workshop in north London.

Mr David Wickens, chairman of Lotus said yesterday that Midea - a Canadian holding company which he controls jointly with Mr Michael Ashcroft's Hawley Group - would be buying the stake in the next six weeks.

The transaction will raise Midea's shareholding in Lotus from the present 14 per cent to 34 per cent and trigger a requirement under City takeover rules for Midea to bid for the whole company.

Mr Wickens is keen to retain the group's stock market quote and any bid would not be intended to succeed. "The price will be unattractive for most shareholders and the board will be recommending against acceptance," said Mr Wickens. He was speaking after the Lotus annual meeting at Hethel, Norfolk.

The sale of the Chapman stake may herald the early

departure of Mr Fred Burrell from the Lotus board. Mr Burrell is one of the executors of the family estate and was Mr Colin Chapman's right hand man before Mr Chapman's death in December 1982.

But his relationship with Mr Wickens has been strained and he was "absolved" from all executive duties this year after the Inland Revenue attempted unsuccessfully to slap an £85m tax bill on the company.

Allegations by Mr John Daloz, during his recent trial in California for illegal drug dealing, that Mr Colin Chapman "conned" and "swindled" him out of £17.65m (£13.78m), were dismissed by Mr Wickens as "nonsense".

He said: "Some people even claim that Mr Chapman is still alive. Lotus has no connexion with the missing money. I have no idea where it went but the matter is at an end as far as this company is concerned."

Mr Wickens told shareholders there was little chance of the company returning to the dividend lists before 1986 when the group is due to launch its X100 mass production sports-car.

Legal & General Interim Results

The unaudited group profit for shareholders is £19.9m compared with £19.0m for the first half of 1983.

Profits from life and pensions business worldwide continued to grow but sharply increased underwriting losses, principally as a result of exceptional weather claims in the UK, affected the results.

An interim dividend for 1984 of 7.5p per share (1983 6.0p) will be paid on 1 December 1984 to shareholders recorded on the register of members on 5 October 1984.

| | 6 months 1984 | 6 months 1983 | Year 1983 |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Group Premium Income | | | |
| Pensions and life | 452.1 | 370.4 | 796.7 |
| General insurance | 107.3 | 96.1 | 191.1 |
| Profit from operations | | | |
| Long-term business | 26.4 | 20.1 | 46.8 |
| Fund management | 2.7 | 2.9 | 5.2 |
| Short-term business | (5.7) | 2.0 | 1.1 |
| Shareholders' other income | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.6 |
| Associated companies | 1.1 | 1.0 | 2.3 |
| Profit before taxation | 25.3 | 26.3 | 56.0 |
| Taxation | (5.1) | (7.0) | (12.2) |
| Profit after taxation | 20.2 | 19.3 | 43.8 |
| Employee profit sharing scheme after taxation | (0.3) | (0.3) | (0.7) |
| Profit attributable to shareholders | 19.9 | 19.0 | 43.1 |
| Earnings per share | 13.07p | 12.53p | 28.46p |

Short-term business results

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Reckitt & Colman in £106m cash call

By Derek Pain

Shares of Reckitt & Colman, the mustard to wine group, fell 20p to 525p yesterday as it surprised the stock market with a £106m rights issue block-buster.

Sir James Cleminson, chairman, made it clear that Reckitt wants the shareholders' cash to help with a large takeover he has in his sights.

He said: "There are a number of acquisition possibilities of varying sizes currently being actively considered by the directors."

The stock market immediately began to speculate about the likely Reckitt target. The group has made no secret of its desire to expand overseas, particularly in the United States, but British companies with a high profile could be on its shopping list.

One which the market was quick to associate with Reckitt was H. P. Bulmer, the cider maker where takeover rumours have hovered lately. The shares gained 5p to 189p.

Reckitt has chosen its rights carefully. At 545p its shares were riding at an all-time peak. The rights is on a one for five ratio at 445p a share. The cash call is expected to drop the share price back below 500p.

National Westminster Bank was also in the rights spotlight when the rumour of its deeply discounted £236m cash call was sold in the market. Shareholders took up almost 95 per cent of their entitlement with the remainder sold for just under 251p a share. Natwest gained 7p to 479p.

Leisuretime International, the holidays group created from a small hotel company by Mr Timothy Aitken, was unchanged by 65p as the Kennedy Brook restaurant group surprised and suddenly broke off its association with the company.

The three Kennedy directors - Messrs Michael Golder, Roy Ackerman and Laurence Isaacson - who were due to join the Leisuretime board will not now do so and Kennedy's has sold its 7.8 per cent shareholding.

The Mario and Franco -

were placed at about 111p, raising £6.35m for the acquisition of 80 per cent of Kolmar, a Swiss cosmetics maker.

Insurance shares were blown back by worries about the damage Hurricane Diana has inflicted on the eastern American seaboard.

Commercial Union, which has endured some bad experiences in the US, lost 2p to 183p and General Accident and Royal Insurance were among others lowered. Most insurance stocks finished off their low points.

After a see-saw day, the FT 30 share index closed at 857.6 points, down 0.4 points. At one time it had been 1.6 up at 859 points. The SE-FT 100 share index contradicted its more established rival with a 1,103.3 points close, up 0.4 points. Trading was again thin.

The undertone was firm with the market continuing to draw mild encouragement from the fact that the miners talks have not been abandoned; the better performance by sterling against the dollar and the easing of interest rate pressures.

Government stocks were largely unchanged although inflation gills, ahead of tomorrow's retail prices index, edged forward.

BTR closed unchanged at 484p as it produced figures in line with expectations but Costain lost 6p to 298p on disappointment with its interim profits.

Kennedy's shares were unchanged at 240p.

Croda International slipped 3p to 114p as 5.7 million shares

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Low interim profits hide Woolworth progress

A company which makes £400,000 pretax profit on a turnover which has risen by 30 per cent to £697m might seem to be in some trouble, but Woolworth's wafer-thin interim result disguises the true extent of the retailing giant's progress.

One problem is technical changes in the accounts. Woolworth has revalued its properties and allocated a full market to each F. W. Woolworth store accordingly. The full £10m extra value of the next five years' rent has been taken on to the books in one go. Accounting changes to depreciation on these revaluations turn last year's interim loss of £6.3m (excluding property sales) into a £5.4m loss when restated to make it comparable with this year's figures.

Since the restatement falls especially heavily on F. W. Woolworth, as distinct from other parts of the group, its trading loss climbed to £24.8m from £14.7m. The loss was further accentuated by the massive Operation Facelift during the first quarter, in which some 900 stores were revamped. Cutting stocks by a sweeping £100m also took its toll.

But trading profits elsewhere moved ahead briskly. B&Q, the do-it-yourself chain, demonstrated its crucial importance to the group by raising retailing profits from £8.5m to £11.7m, and the store opening programme proceeds apace. Comet, the new jewel bought for £177m in April, chipped in with £1.7m although the chances of last year's very good figures from Comet being repeated are slim.

The obverse of cutting stocks to the bone was lower interest charges. Interest paid fell by almost £5m to £13.6m, and with the total volume of borrowings down and the Comet purchase being self-financing, Woolworth should feel more comfortable with its interest obligations.

Much will depend on Christmas trading and the increase in the interim dividend from 2p to 3.5p is more an exercise in reducing the disparity than a promise of big payouts next year. In the longer run

Woolworth still has to find the image which will squeeze the necessary return from the core F. W. Woolworth stores.

BTR's interim pretax profits of £115m were a little less than the market had been expecting but still a very creditable performance. The comparison with last year is a little difficult, since Thomas Tilling is included for the first time in this half.

So successful has been the integration that BTR does not like to talk about the separate results from Tilling preferring to point to the performance of the main business segments.

An analysis of each sector, adjusted to include Tilling, reveals that there has been an across the board improvement. The most dramatic is in the energy and electrical division, which moved from an £11m loss to a profit of £31m. The bulk of the turnaround is accounted for by the absence of a £30m provision against a Tilling subsidiary.

Elsewhere the construction division showed a substantial increase in operating profit and both industrial and consumer-related operations improved. The financial services division could only hold its own, but in the context of the poor performance returned by insurance companies recently it is a good result.

The two main themes of the interim results are the productivity and efficiency improvements and the rate of progress in the US. It is BTR's stated aim to improve its margins and this has been achieved by both better management and a more acute appreciation of product mix.

The increase in productivity has been particularly important in the UK where volume which, added to better efficiency has helped the bottom line substantially.

The US is now a significant market for BTR accounting for about one third of its profits. Its importance will become even greater and BTR is still committed to another substantial acquisition there.

The shares slipped back after the announcement but remained

covered to close unchanged at 484p. The shares have done well recently and some profit taking is due but they will then warrant further examination.

Costain

Coal mining in Britain might have its problems at the moment, but on the other side of the Atlantic the industry is proving to be most lucrative.

Yesterday's interim results from Costain included a £1.5m increase in profits from its North American coal interests, which in the context of group pretax profits of £17.25m, up by only £1m, is an important contribution.

Annual production has been doubled to 7 million tonnes, and there is still the potential to increase this. The great benefit for Costain is low cost of production, which is attributed to the efficiency of its plants.

It sells its coal at about £25 a tonne, compared with the NCB's cost of production, which is estimated to be £50 a tonne.

There might have been some initial doubts about Costain's move into North American mining, but these were without foundation and as production is stepped up it could eventually become the biggest contributor to profits.

Another encouraging aspect of the results was the performance in house building. Fears that the rise in mortgage rates would hold back demand have given way to optimism that the target will be achieved of 1300 completions for the year, against 777 last time.

However, the group is missing the big profits it once earned from its dredging operations and the contracting markets are still highly competitive.

Although profits here remain fairly static, Costain is avoiding the temptation to take on loss-making contracts instead of looking for a profit margin, albeit slim.

The shares were down 6p to 298p on the results. Although they are unexciting in the short-term, the growth potential and prospective yield of more than 7 per cent make them more attractive for the longer term.

APPOINTMENTS

Turner & Newall: Mr Neil Sharrock, previously marketing director of T & N's subsidiary, Stores Decorative Products, has become managing director of that company.

Bank of Scotland: Mr J E Boyd, director and financial adviser of the Denholm group of companies, and Mr J M Menzies, chairman of John Menzies, have become members of the main board.

SCM Chemicals: Mr P C Firing has been appointed chairman and Mr R M Noble, managing director, Mr K M Green, Mr H R Murphy, secretary, and Mr M C M Waters become directors.

Wilkinson Sword Consumer Products Group: Mr Richard Bate takes the new position of vice-president.

MONEY MARKETS

There was scattered pockets of activity in interbank term deposits during the morning. Sterling certificates of deposit saw light demand direct to some of the longer maturities down to 10 1/2 per cent at the outset.

In the afternoon, rates tended to drift a little easier without much success. Local authorities were still not showing any real interest beyond notice money.

The quietly bullish mood of the market often enabled period rates to ease slightly in very quiet conditions as traders waited for word from the City and looked optimistically across the Atlantic to New York's credit markets.

Day-to-day money, however, was on the tight side for most of the session, holding 10 1/2-10 3/4 per cent most of the morning and firmly slightly to 11-10 3/4 per cent at midday, towards the close, the rate went down to 10 per cent and eventually closed around 10-6 per cent.

Overnight: 10 1/2-10 3/4
Discount: 10 1/2-10 3/4
Overnight: 10 1/2-10 3/4
Week: 10 1/2-10 3/4

3 months: 10 1/2-10 3/4
6 months: 10 1/2-10 3/4
9 months: 10 1/2-10 3/4
12 months: 10 1/2-10 3/4

1 month: 11-11 1/4
3 months: 11-11 1/4
6 months: 11-11 1/4
9 months: 11-11 1/4
12 months: 11-11 1/4

1 month: 11 1/2-11 3/4
3 months: 11 1/2-11 3/4
6 months: 11 1/2-11 3/4
9 months: 11 1/2-11 3/4
12 months: 11 1/2-11 3/4

1 month: 11 1/2-11 3/4
3 months: 11 1/2-11 3/4
6 months: 11 1/2-11 3/4
9 months: 11 1/2-11 3/4
12 months: 11 1/2-11 3/4

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Currencies moved within narrow limits in quiet trading as the market awaited a new lead. The dollar was consolidating its recent gains, with operators still not sure how to interpret the Federal Reserve Board's operations in the banking system.

Initial small profit taking in the dollar was probably due in part to comments made by Mr Paul Volcker and Henry Kaufman indicating that they felt US interest rates would not rise soon. But the dollar perked up again with the entry of New York.

Starting finished with a new improvement of 20 points against the dollar at 1,279.0. The pound was also firm in terms of Continentals, underpinned by the continuing talks on the miners' dispute. The effective exchange rate index rose another 0.1 to 78.0.

In the meantime, the dollar was finally unaltered at 2,997.5 against the Deutschmark, firmed from 2,488.0 to 2,489.0 against the Swiss franc, and eased from 2,200.0 to 2,195.0 against the French franc.

The yen rose from 245.15 to 244.90.

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| New York | 2,997.5 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| London | 2,489.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Frankfurt | 2,488.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Paris | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Geneva | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Basel | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Brussels | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Amsterdam | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Stockholm | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Copenhagen | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Helsinki | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Oslo | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Stockholm | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Copenhagen | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Helsinki | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Oslo | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Stockholm | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Copenhagen | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Helsinki | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Oslo | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |

| STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES | STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES | STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES | STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
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| New York | 2,997.5 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
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| Paris | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Geneva | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Basel | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Brussels | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Amsterdam | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Stockholm | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Copenhagen | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Helsinki | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Oslo | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Stockholm | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Copenhagen | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Helsinki | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Oslo | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |

| DOLLAR SPOT RATES | DOLLAR SPOT RATES | DOLLAR SPOT RATES | DOLLAR SPOT RATES |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
| New York | 2,997.5 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| London | 2,489.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Frankfurt | 2,488.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Paris | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Geneva | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Basel | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Brussels | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Amsterdam | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Stockholm | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Copenhagen | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Helsinki | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Oslo | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Stockholm | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Copenhagen | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Helsinki | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Oslo | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |

| OTHER RATES | OTHER RATES | OTHER RATES | OTHER RATES |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
| New York | 2,997.5 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| London | 2,489.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Frankfurt | 2,488.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Paris | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Geneva | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Basel | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Brussels | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Amsterdam | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Stockholm | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Copenhagen | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Helsinki | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Oslo | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Stockholm | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Copenhagen | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Helsinki | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Oslo | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |

| EURO-DEPOSITS | EURO-DEPOSITS | EURO-DEPOSITS | EURO-DEPOSITS |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
| New York | 2,997.5 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| London | 2,489.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Frankfurt | 2,488.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Paris | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Geneva | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Basel | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Brussels | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Amsterdam | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Stockholm | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Copenhagen | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Helsinki | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Oslo | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Stockholm | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Copenhagen | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Helsinki | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |
| Oslo | 2,195.0 | 0.17-0.18 | 0.17-0.18 |

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

| 1984 | | 1983 | | | | 1984 | | | |
|------|-----|-----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|-----|---------------|
| High | Low | Company | Price | Ch'ge | Yld | P/E | High | Low | Company |
| 743 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
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| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
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| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
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| 576 | 119 | Abnorbond | 2.09 | 0.00 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 385 | 166 | Banking Clear |
| 576 | | | | | | | | | |

Space programmes for computers

THAT is something which Beacontree Estates had to take into account when it undertook to manage the National Water Council's 95,000 sq ft scheme 300 yards from the GRE site. Beacontree's site manager, Mr Christopher Putnam, said the planners required an extension

Postel is to finance the 160,000 sq ft first phase in a £12.5m agreement on the 30-acre site. Once again the buildings will have 50 per cent office space. Bernard Thorpe & Partners acted for Postel and Strutt & Parker is the letting agent.

It is difficult to gauge what prime yields for mixed office and industrial schemes will be. Rental levels seem to be set midway between top office and industrial rents. If the same principal applies to yields, we can see a level of settling between a prime office yield of

properly investment, having shunned it in favour of better performing alternatives and there are more first-time investors. This weight of money chasing prime opportunities is leading to a downward pressure on yields and also a willingness by funds to extend buying criteria to sectors of the market.

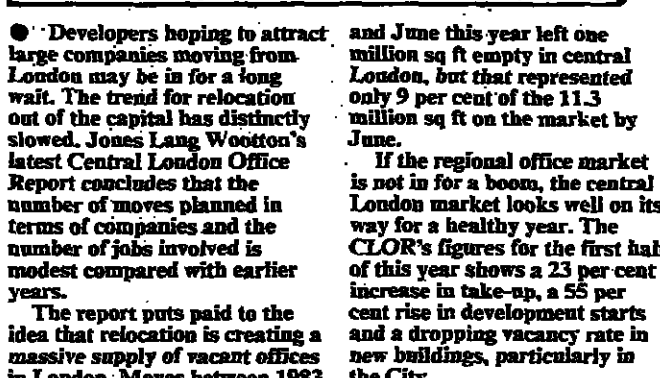
sultants, and Drivers Jonas, the chartered surveyors, to investigate exactly what the property requirements of the advancing technology companies are. The study, which will take about two years, will look at the kind of sites, locations and premises needed by industry and will differentiate between needs.

● Capital & Counties is about to sign up a tenant for its 21,000 sq ft office development, The Pavilions, at Fareham Parkway, south Hampshire. There are four linked buildings in the

BASF Aktien
Copies of the interim report

engesellschaft
ort (first half-year 1984) are

Kleinwort, Benson Limited, S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.,
20 Fenchurch Street 30 Gresham Street
London EC3P 3DB London EC2P 2EB



It is difficult to gauge what prime yields for mixed office and industrial schemes will be. Rental levels seem to be set midway between top office and industrial rents. If the same principal applies to yields, we can see a level of settling in from the mid- to high-10% property investment having shunned it in favour of better performing alternatives and there are more first-time investors chasing prime opportunities in leading to a downward pressure on yields and also a willingness by funds to extend buying criteria to sectors of the market.

11. The following information is provided for the year ended 31 December 2014:

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

[illegible]

GET TO KNOW

Raffles

ONE STEP AHEAD

RAFFLES
Special Virginia



Raffles
100

TALLER
THAN
KING SIZE

LOW TO MIDDLE TAR As defined by H.M. Government
DANGER: Government Health WARNING:
CIGARETTES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

FOOTBALL: SOVIET UNION GIVEN THE RUNAROUND IN OPENING WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

GOLF: BRITISH FAVOURITE BEATEN BY LAST OF THE QUALIFIERS

It was ladies' day in the European championships, sponsored by Captain Morgan Rum, at Weymouth yesterday. In particular it was the British ladies who made the news, some good, some bad.

Two races were sailed: one was the scheduled race of the day, the other a result of Sunday's race, which had been the subject of many protests after only two competitors were judged to have finished properly. All but these two women raced again, for third place and so on.

The first race, with everyone competing, was won with some ease by Michelle Gail, the first British winner of the week and of any division two European championship race. But the bad news is that her boat failed a routine measurements check, according to all winners, on the grounds of insufficient buoyancy. So her win is in jeopardy, subject to protest.

In the remedial race, British girls were again seen to the fore, with Penny Way leading round the first mark, and Miss Gail lying in third. The noticeably heavier Dutch girls, previously the class pacemakers,

were less effective in yesterday's moderate conditions. By the end of the race, however, Miss Way had dropped out of contention. Miss Gail finished third, still on her suspect board, and the race was won by Valerie Salles, of France.

Anders Bringsdal (Sweden) won his third race of the series in the heavyweight division, and is now the most clear-cut leader on overall points. Three Frenchmen are competing the lightweight class, with only a few points between them, still filling the first three places yesterday.

Women's events also subject to protest: 1 M Gail (GB); 2 A Bringsdal (S); 3 J de Looze (N); 4 P Way (GB); 5 C Gail (GB); 6 M Gail (GB); 7 P Way (GB); 8 J de Looze (N); 9 M Gail (GB); 10 P Way (GB); 11 C Gail (GB); 12 M Gail (GB); 13 P Way (GB); 14 J de Looze (N); 15 M Gail (GB); 16 P Way (GB); 17 C Gail (GB); 18 M Gail (GB); 19 P Way (GB); 20 J de Looze (N); 21 M Gail (GB); 22 P Way (GB); 23 C Gail (GB); 24 M Gail (GB); 25 P Way (GB); 26 J de Looze (N); 27 M Gail (GB); 28 P Way (GB); 29 C Gail (GB); 30 M Gail (GB); 31 P Way (GB); 32 J de Looze (N); 33 M Gail (GB); 34 P Way (GB); 35 C Gail (GB); 36 M Gail (GB); 37 P Way (GB); 38 J de Looze (N); 39 M Gail (GB); 40 P Way (GB); 41 C Gail (GB); 42 M Gail (GB); 43 P Way (GB); 44 J de Looze (N); 45 M Gail (GB); 46 P Way (GB); 47 C Gail (GB); 48 M Gail (GB); 49 P Way (GB); 50 J de Looze (N); 51 M Gail (GB); 52 P Way (GB); 53 C Gail (GB); 54 M Gail (GB); 55 P Way (GB); 56 J de Looze (N); 57 M Gail (GB); 58 P Way (GB); 59 C Gail (GB); 60 M Gail (GB); 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Competent Secretary required for Partner of progressive Mayfair Chartered Surveying practice. Ideal applicant should be aged 25 years +, with good secretarial background & excellent typing & audio skills. The ability to work on their own initiative essential. Attractive salary please write to: Helen Bateman, 170 Chancery St., London WC2A 1PL

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International Firm sucht deutschsprachige PA Sekretärin. Die ideale Sekretärin sollte: Englisch-Muttersprache, gute Deutschkenntnisse, gute Organisationsfähigkeiten, Einzelarbeits- und englische Kurzschreibweise verstanden. Gehalt: £8,500+ monatliche Vorteile. BILINGUAL SPECIALISTS BOYCE AGENCY 7 Ladbroke Grove, London W2 1BN (Open 9.30-4.30 Mon-Fri)

PA for Entrepreneur

Company Car. PERSONAL OFFICER in Catering £10,000. EXEC. SEC. in Advertising £8,500 + bonus. SENIOR SEC. in Banking £8,500 + bonus. TRAVEL SECRETARY £8,000. P.A. in Publishing £8,500. ADVICE P.A. £8,000. GRADUATE SEC. in Charity £7,500. Phone 823 4888

City Recruitment Consultants
20 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7PL

Personnel Assistant/Senior Secretary

£8,000

Central London

John Walker & Sons Limited is the world's largest blender of Scotch Whisky. We seek a mature and self-reliant person with secretarial skills to be responsible to the Staff & Administrative Manager for providing a complete personnel service to our London office. Main duties include recruitment, maintenance of confidential staff records and general admin.

Probably over 30, you will be educated to 'A' level, possess good shorthand and typing skills and have worked for at least three years in a personnel department. Benefits include non-contributory pension and BUPA schemes, after qualifying periods, holiday bonus and subsidised staff restaurant.

Please write with full details or phone for more information to: Mr. P. Humble, John Walker & Sons Ltd., 63 St. James's Street, London SW1A 1NB. Tel: 01-493 8155.

JOHN WALKER & SONS LIMITED

Secretary/Researcher

Executive Search Consultants in W1 seek self-motivated, experienced Secretary/Researcher to work with Senior Consultants. Able to fit comfortably in small working environment, the task will involve business research and client/candidate contact, so a bright and cheerful personality, together with a confident but sensitive telephone manner is essential. A high standard of education is required and the appointment could appeal to a graduate. Age 25+ salary £8,000+ discretionary bonus + health insurance. Apply in writing with full CV to Sally Young, Suite 5, 85 New Cavendish St., London W1M 7TA.

SECRETARY

SHAC, the London Housing Act Centre, requires a Secretary. SHAC is a charity which provides housing advice to Londoners and which also produces research and publications on housing issues. The person we are looking for will be an experienced Secretary for the Research and Administration Departments, with a high level of ability in copy and audio typing, shorthand and office administration. Ability to operate a word processor will be an advantage but training in word processing will be available. The work is interesting, useful and well paid. In return, applicants should be prepared to work flexible hours and to work on their own initiative. SHAC welcomes applications from all people who have the necessary attributes for the job. Applications from job seekers are encouraged. Please send CV to the Administrator, SHAC, 188a Old Broad Street, London, EC2A 1AR. 01-273 7276.

£10,500 MAYFAIR

The Managing Director of the major industrial company needs a young secretary of mature judgement to organise the wide spectrum of his business and charitable activities. The successful candidate will be educated to 'A' level standard, with two years experience at Director level, will be interested and committed to her career and have a warm, friendly personality to the seniority of her job. Flexibility to work occasionally in the West End is essential. Age 25-32, Speaks 11/10. West End Office Tel: 629 9686

ANGELA MORTIMER

NP's PA

The young, energetic PA of an international company needs someone with a good education, director level secretarial experience & first class skills. It is an interesting, involving job when you'll need to match your boss's energy & commitment. Word processing training will be given if necessary. preferred age 25-34.

Bernadette of Bond St.
Recruitment Consultants
11 St. James's Street, London W1A 1NB. 01-493 8155

ADAPTABLE PA

First class communication skills essential for this one as you look after the Chairman and overseas Directors during their stay in the UK. Diplomacy, tact and ability to work under pressure, excellent secretarial skills 90/50 and a knowledge of Portuguese/Spanish a must. Confidential. Please send CV to: RITZ REC CONS., 11 St. James's Street, London W1A 1NB. 01-493 8155

Recruitment Consultant

Join thriving agency team who will give you the freedom to implement your ideas, express your initiative and expect you to have a say in running the business. Perfect career opportunity for experienced Consultant who believes in high standards, hard work, and complete honesty with applicants. Excellent salary with commission package. Ring Chantey Tate. 01-408 0424

LOVE AND TATE
Recruitment and Contingency Consultants

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Thornton Heath c.£9,000. Professionals with their own required for busy HQ environment minimum 5 years experience at senior level. Transferring scope for applicant with social awareness and an innovative nature. Car driver essential. Fast growing skills needed for minimum wage. Age 30-40.

439 7881 (West End) 377 8808 (City)

Secretaries Plus

Secretary/Personal Assistant required by Art Consultant. Knowledge of French/Spanish an advantage. Age 25-35 years. Good salary. Please send CV. Box 0521R The Times.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - SEC

Exciting prospects for a Secretary who can play a cool, calm, collected role. Good salary. 100/70. Age 25+.

DESIGN - SECRETARY

Interesting post without short-term. Age 25-35 years. Good salary. Please send CV. Box 0521R The Times.

J.F. CONSULTANTS

PUBLISHING IN BEDFORD SQUARE

PA/Secretary to Vice-Chairman/Overseas Director. Excellent opportunity for someone with good skills to get involved in all aspects of publishing. Salary from £8,500 + LV's. Ring Nicholas White 837 7161

PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANTS

URGENT! Bright young secretary needed to join a dynamic team. She will be responsible for a variety of tasks, including typing, shorthand, and office administration. Good salary, plus expenses. Please send CV to: GORDON VATER CONSULTANTS, 20 Ockley Street, London W1 0JL. 01-493 8155

FRENCH SPEAKING SECRETARY/PA

Good salary £8,000-£10,000. Call 01-493 8155

SLAUGHTER SQUARE - STAFF

URGENT! Young woman with excellent secretarial skills and a keen eye for detail. Good salary, plus expenses. Please send CV to: GORDON VATER CONSULTANTS, 20 Ockley Street, London W1 0JL. 01-493 8155

GRADUATE COLLEGE LEAVES

Good salary £8,000-£10,000. Call 01-493 8155

continued on page 27

£9,000 plus

CJES

35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576
Telex 887374 Fax 01-638 9216

CJES

A challenging new appointment in a "Blue Chip" company.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

London W.1.

£9,000

MARKET LEADER IN HIGH QUALITY INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS
For this interesting new appointment we invite applications from professional secretaries with a good educational background and sound shorthand and typing skills. The successful applicant will act as an extension to the Managing Director, using their initiative to ensure the co-ordination and smooth running of a multi-site organisation, especially during his absence. The work is highly confidential and responsible and, in addition to the usual secretarial duties, there will be opportunities to undertake marketing and business planning assignments. Proven administrative ability, numeracy, self-assertion, enthusiasm and a warm diplomatic personality are the qualities we seek. Initial remuneration negotiable to £9,000 + contributory pension, interest free season ticket loan. Applications in strict confidence under reference ESEC622/77, to the Managing Director.

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES LIMITED (RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS), 35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH. Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. TELEFAX: 887374. FAX NO. 01-638 9216.

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Required to work to the Financial Controller. Applicants will have gained experience at a senior secretarial level and be familiar with word processors and working in a computerised environment. Duties include maintaining records, typing monthly accounts, schedules and correspondence for the department. Flexible attitude and sense of humour essential. Usual company benefits incl. PPP, 25 days holiday plus statutory holidays. Salary neg.

TEMPORARY SECRETARY

Required immediately until January '85 to work in General Manager's office. Applicants should have excellent secretarial and organisational skills and be familiar with word processors. Salary neg. For further details and application forms please telephone Marcia McNab at Bell & Vanner Associates on 01-379 7042.

Bell & Vanner Associates Ltd

21 Russell Street, Covent Garden, London WC2B 5HP

Secretary/PA

Required for a leading fashion company to keep the Joint Managing Directors under control. If you like a challenge, this is the job for you, and if you are the right person, you name the salary!

Write, with full CV, to:

Mark & Neal Lindsey
Joint Managing Directors
NASHVILLE (Fashion Wear) LTD
5 Warple Way, Acton
London, W3 0RQ

Administration

Office Administrator wanted for expanding Lincoln's Inn Solicitors to be responsible for staff and efficient running of office. Interesting and challenging position in pleasant surroundings. Experience essential. Salary by arrangement.

Apply:

Box 1773 H The Times

Satherley Design Associates

The Principal of a busy and expanding design company based in Central London requires an experienced Personal Assistant. The successful applicant will be required to help him organise his busy schedule, liaise with clients and oversee his office on a day-to-day basis which will include the supervision of other office staff. The ability to work on their own initiative is essential as is the ability to work under pressure. An able and happy disposition would be an advantage in order to work with the Principal and his team of designers.

All your work can be carried out using a word processor and training will be given if you do not already have experience. Short-hand would be an advantage. This is a position of some responsibility and as such a salary of £10,000 plus is being offered. When applications, enclosing a CV, should be sent marked Private and Confidential to: J. Satherley, Satherley Design Associates, 8/10 Grosvenor Street, London, W1H 0LL.

PA TO MD THE LAP OF LUXURY £9,000 + benefits

Luxuriate in your own superb office in a beautiful Georgian house in W1. As PA to the MD you will have the poise & confidence to cope with many overseas visitors, smoothly handle the many vital secretarial duties, be at least 30 & have a minimum of 7 years experience in the financial world. Salary £9,000 negotiable + many excellent benefits.

Write to: J. A. Satherley, Satherley Design Associates, 8/10 Grosvenor Street, London, W1H 0LL.

Administrator/Sec/PA

Available, self-motivated P.A. sought by rapidly expanding financial services company. Must be articulate and flexible with a sense of humour. Solid responsibility for day-to-day operations. Top level international client liaison. Working knowledge of French an advantage. Remuneration - negotiable. Please reply in writing with current CV. 2C

ASTRAFIN LIMITED
10 St. George Street, London SW1P 3AT

CITY PROPERTY £9,000+

Are you a Senior Secretary with good skills & plenty of experience? Are you looking for a job with prestige & excitement? Then the dynamic world of multi-million pound property deals could be for you. A young & successful partner of this leading property company is looking for someone to organise his hectic life, get involved in all aspects of the property business & generally maintain order in an area of fast & furious negotiating.

Interested? Why not call us today on 499 6566 or 493 8383.

The GROSVENOR Bureau

Hamburg based shipowners/shipbrokers are looking for an intelligent, enthusiastic SEC/S.H. TYPIST for their busy chartering dept.

Applicants should have secretarial skills, ability to operate a telex and also be prepared to work in administration, shipping experience/knowledge of German an advantage but not essential. Attractive salary. Please apply with full CV to our London representatives: Mr R. H. Bird, BMM Shipbrokers Ltd., The Corn Exchange Buildings, 52-57 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7ST.

WP SECRETARY FOR OIL COMPANY, W1

Our client requires a high calibre Secretary with shorthand and CPT WP. This position offers a great deal of variety and responsibility. If you are 24+ with a good standard of education and are energetic and cheerful by nature, please telephone Denise Collins for an interview.

Types

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Public Appointments

General Appointments

General Manager

Gwent Health Authority

Applications are invited for the new post of General Manager for the Gwent Health Authority which has arisen as a direct result of the recommendation of the NHS Management Inquiry to strengthen general management in the Health Service.

Based in Pontypool, the new General Manager will be responsible to the Authority for the planning and management of health care services provided through seven local units to a population of 440,000. The Authority employs over 8,700 staff and has annual budgets approaching £90m.

The prime aim of the post is to improve health care in the area, within the already established philosophy of 'patients first'. Specific objectives include: review of the management function, development of improved performance criteria and design and

operation of procedures for rapid and effective implementation of decisions.

Candidates must have worked at a senior level in a substantial service undertaking, either in the public or private sectors. Strong leadership abilities must be supplemented by the skill, sensitivity and determination to achieve lasting change in this complex and highly visible organisation.

The appointment will be made on a fixed term contract or, if mutually acceptable, on a secondment basis. Remuneration will be negotiable.

Candidates (Male or female) are asked to send a summary of career achievements and current remuneration to A.E.N. Buckley at the address below, quoting reference GMS2/8868/T. All applications will be brought to the attention of the Authority unless otherwise requested. Initial interviews will be conducted by PA.

PA

PA Personnel Services

5 Highfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3DJ
Tel: 021-454 5791 Telex: 337239

COMPUTER SERVICES CONTROLLER

Richmond

c. £11,000

Management Horizons Limited specialises in developing profit improvement and growth opportunities for major retailing companies in the UK and continental Europe. Much statistical information is already available on their IBM personal computers and the company now wishes to consolidate and develop data bases and program software with the appointment of a young, go-ahead professional to manage the computer facility. Candidates should have experience in the use of custom made software packages, should be competent to assess new packages and be able to provide full programming support and development for project teams.

This is an excellent career opportunity to join a rapidly expanding company. Candidates, probably aged up to 25, must be graduates in a maths/statistics/computing discipline, ideally with 2/3 years commercial experience and they should be able to demonstrate powers of determination, numeracy, enthusiasm and be able to work largely unsupervised.

Please send full career history, in total confidence, to: Nicholas Potter quoting reference 155/T
Mainstay Management Services Limited,
34 York Street, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 3LJ.
Telephone: 01-891 3301.

MAINSTAY
Management Services

FINANCIAL SYSTEMS CONSULTANTS

£16,000 to £24,000 plus BMW 520i plus BUPA

to support the pre-sales activity and post sales implementation of Walker's Integrated Interactive General Ledger package for users of IBM and compatible mainframe computers.

Walker is the world's fastest-growing supplier of major financial applications packages, and I/IGL is our flagship product which enjoys a three to four year lead over its competitors in both the functional and technical areas.

Our customers are generally leaders in commerce and industry and therefore your work with us will be interesting, challenging and rewarding.

You should have significant experience of General Ledger applications either as a user, consultant or supplier preferably including the implementation of one or more of the major General Ledger applications packages on IBM mainframe computers.

A strong financial background is essential, and some familiarity with on-line or real-time applications will be an advantage.

Please write in confidence enclosing your personal and career details, with a home or business telephone number, to David Brownlee, Walker International, Friars Court, Friarage Passage, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2SJ (0296-32951).

WALKER

INTERNATIONAL MARKET RESEARCH EXECUTIVE

DO YOU HAVE THESE SKILLS OR AT LEAST A COMBINATION OF TWO OF THEM?

Market research or marketing experience
Medical or pharmaceutical knowledge
Ability to communicate in French, German or Spanish

Milpro the leading market research agency to service the pharmaceutical industry worldwide are looking for a research executive to join its growing international department. The work will be varied and cover all aspects of market research/data gathering. There will be opportunities to travel while interviewing doctors and other allied medical personnel and of contact with international pharmaceutical companies.

If you are interested in finding out more about the position and the company, please apply in writing with an outline of your experience, to Mrs Pauline Hohenberg, Milpro Ltd, 1 & 2 Berners Street, London W1P 3AG. Tel: 01 637 1444.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Maintenance Services (Ref: C.5)

£19,325 - £21,375 pa + Car Allowance
Lambeth, one of London's largest Boroughs seeks an outstanding man or woman to head up its Maintenance Division with a current staff/workforce of around 1,000.

Essentially, the key task is to take responsibility for some 50,000 Council properties, ensuring they are kept in good repair and modernised/converted as and where necessary. The Assistant Director will direct and co-ordinate the activities of six Works Managers each of whom has their own team. The Council's current budget for the Directorate is £23m with £18m of this for Maintenance.

Substantial experience in a similar role is essential although this need not necessarily have been in the public sector. The important attributes are strong leadership and pronounced skill in managing large numbers of people. This is a full time post reports to the Director and is part of the Management Team. Lambeth is an inner city multi-racial Borough responsive to the special needs of the community it serves and is committed to a programme of equal opportunity. There is a requirement, therefore, to balance the need to be competitive and maximise the value of each £ spent with the particular demands of working in a local authority environment.

This is a re-advertisement and previous applicants need not re-apply.

Application forms obtainable from the Senior Personnel Officer, Directorate of Management Services, London Borough of Lambeth, 18 Brixton Hill, London SW2. Tel: 01-274 7722 Ext. 3008.
Closing date September 24th, 1984.

LAMBETH

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

required for a professional education and experience of University Education Scheme on admission. Salary on scale LA £6,310 - £11,616 (interim review) plus £1,105 London Allowance.

Further particulars are available from the School Office, R.F.H.S.M., Royal Free Hospital, London NW3 2AP. Tel: 01-494 0220. To which application by full curriculum vitae including the names and addresses of two referees should be submitted by 28 Sept. 1984 quoting reference AA/L.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The International Secretariat based in London has the following vacancies:

RESEARCHER MIDDLE EAST RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
The work involves investigating human rights in the Middle East, preparing reports and advising on initiatives to be taken by Amnesty International, particularly in relation to prisoners of conscience, trial procedures and the treatment of prisoners.

Candidates should have sound knowledge of the Middle East, especially its political and legal background. The ability to seek out and evaluate information objectively, good political judgement and the ability to communicate fluently in English, both orally and in writing are essential, as is excellent Arabic.

Salary: £2465 per annum (interim).

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT MIDDLE EAST RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
Executive Assistants are primarily responsible for liaising with Amnesty International's groups around the world to provide information relating to Amnesty International's human rights concerns and recommend actions on behalf of prisoners.

Fluent Arabic and English are essential. French would be useful. Executive Assistants must be able to type.

Salary: £2465 per annum (interim).

For a detailed job specification and application form, please send large A4 to Personnel Office, Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Euston Street, London WC1X 8BJ, indicating job preference.
CLOSING DATE FOR RETURN OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS: 28 October 1984.

Exciting Opportunities in Robotic Engineering

Caplin Cybernetics needs enthusiastic engineers to develop the first true domestic robot. This is an excellent opportunity to join a small team engaged in a well funded project in state of the art technology.

Software Designers/Engineers
For development of operating programs for prototype and production machines. Applicants must be experienced in machine code and assembly language programming; and have knowledge of I/O or microprocessors plus a genuine interest in robotics/electronics. Experience with AI systems will be an advantage.

Electronic Design and Development Engineers

Required for design and development of control, sensing and processing systems and provision of hardware environment for operating software. Must have experience in control and instrumentation design/development and digital interfacing. Experience in robotics and/or video systems desirable, not essential.

Suitable applicants will be robotics enthusiasts and probably be educated to degree standard or equivalent. Salary levels will reflect the extremely high importance placed on this project.

Write for application form and interview arrangements, enclosing brief CV to:
Robert Holden
P.O. Box 4YY, London W1A 4YY.

THE INSTITUTE OF THE CITY OF LONDON

Applications are invited for the post of Administrative Assistant in the Education & Membership Department.

To assist with the maintenance and development of the Society's computerised membership record system and with the procedures relating to the payment of annual membership fees.

Typing essential. Salary c. £5,750. 17 1/2 days per year.

20 days annual leave.

Applications in writing to: The Institute of the City of London, 10 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

WHICH CAREER SUITS BEST?

Professional Guidance and Assessment for all ages.

15-24 yrs Courses, Careers 25-34 yrs Progress, Changes 35-44 yrs Review, 2nd Careers

Full details in free brochure.

CAREER ANALYSTS

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CHIEF ESTATES OFFICER

c. £15,000

The Bournville Village Trust, one of the country's leading charitable housing trusts and actively engaged in a range of new housing initiatives, wishes to appoint an experienced professional to a new post of Chief Estates Officer.

This challenging post has been created to coordinate the management of the Trust's existing estates with the pursuit of new development opportunities concerned with the provision of housing for sale and for rent.

He/she will have overall responsibility for the Trust's Technical Services Department, including its in-house architectural practice, and will also be a key member of the Trust's senior management team. The successful candidate is likely to possess a professional qualification in an appropriate discipline and must possess:-

- * A management skills of a high order
- * A successful track record as an urban estates manager
- * Residential development experience
- * A knowledge of housing association and private sector development procedures and practices
- * A concern for conserving the quality of life for people living in urban areas

Application forms and further particulars from:
The Personnel Officer, Bournville Village Trust, Estate Office,
Oak Tree Lane, Birmingham B30 1UB. Telephone: 021-472 3831
Closing date for applications - 12th October 1984. Ext. 31

Assistant Director

- * For a small but growing charity working with the churches to reduce the effects of long-term unemployment
- * The main task will be to gain resources and funds from government departments, charitable trusts and industry to enable the charity to pioneer new types of initiative.
- * Marketing, presentation and negotiation are the skills most required.
- * London base. UK travel. Salary £10,000 negotiable. Secondment for a period prior to taking up the job could be considered.

Please send personal details in confidence to:
T. O'C. Cochrane, Charity Appointments
146 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 3HN.

Charity Appointments

International

PROGRAMMER ANALYST

United Creating Corp. is seeking a programmer/analyst to develop and maintain its computerized financial systems. Immediate career opportunities are available in Chicago for a Senior Systems Professional and would play a key role in system definition, programming and implementation of a variety of systems on WANG-VS hardware. Ability to work independently and strong communication skills to interface with users and management would be essential.

The successful candidate will possess:-

- At least six years of experience in system, programming and implementation of commercial systems.
- In-depth knowledge of accounting systems and/or manufacturing systems would be an asset.
- Hands-on experience of COBOL programming and data base management is a prerequisite.
- Proficient in French and English.

A salary range of US \$20,000 to \$40,000 approximately along with a comprehensive package of benefits would be offered to the successful candidate.

Please send resume to:

Mr. Stephen Jarrett
Acting Chief
Recruitment and Placement Section
UNICEF
866 United Nations Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017
U.S.A.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 28 September 1984

Super Secretaries

YOUNG PA SECRETARY. Could and should have the most professional, efficient, and reliable secretarial services. The Young PA Secretaries are now recruiting for a number of positions in the London area. The successful candidate will be a young woman, aged 20-25, with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to type 40 wpm, have a good knowledge of English, and be able to work independently. Salary is £2,500 per annum, plus benefits. Please send your resume to: Young PA Secretaries, 100, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA.

RESEARCH INTO PUBLISHING. Please send your resume to: Research into Publishing, 100, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA.

Sales and Marketing

Sales Executives

UK BASED

WORLD-WIDE RESPONSIBILITIES

SALARY c £27,000 + PA

Due to continued expansion, our client, a major international company require experienced, senior, sales professionals to supplement their existing team.

Suitably qualified candidates should be self-motivated and ideally have a background in air conditioning, refrigeration and chilling systems. Consideration will, however, be given to applicants with strong sales background from an allied industry.

Please submit a comprehensive CV or alternatively, telephone for further details to:

P R WHEELER
CARLCREST LIMITED
Alfamy House, 41 High Street, Boreham, Middlesex
Telephone: 01-568 7193

COMPANY ACCOUNTANT

Polymer Laboratories Ltd., a private, high tech company, with sustained high growth, now wishes to recruit its first Company Accountant.

Applications are invited from qualified accountants with experience in: computerization of accounts, financial control procedures, production of management figures.

Personality is important and the person appointed must be of Board calibre.

Touche Ross will be advising on the appointment.

Good salary, car and benefits. Good rural location at Church Stretton, Shropshire.

Reply in confidence to: The Chairman, Polymer Laboratories Ltd., The Technology Centre, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

FINANCE HOUSE SALES

TRAINEES c£10,000 inc. +

Car + Mortgage subsidy

Vacancies in London, North, West and Oxford. Staff graduates preferential with some sales experience.

01-533 0655

IP Personnel Agency

NON-SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS

RECEPTIONIST PLUS. A professional receptionist in a well known company and a secretarial position in a well known company. Both positions offer excellent career opportunities and a competitive salary. Please send your resume to: IP Personnel Agency, 100, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT. c£7,000 per annum. Position in a well known company. Please send your resume to: IP Personnel Agency, 100, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA.

EDUCATIONAL COURSES. Please send your resume to: IP Personnel Agency, 100, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA.

FINANCE. A finance position in a well known company. Please send your resume to: IP Personnel Agency, 100, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA.

Banking and Accountancy Appointments

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT WEST LONDON

Due to an increased workload, Taylor Woodrow International Ltd require a young, enthusiastic Chartered Accountant who has at least two years post qualification experience in a Professional Office and is seeking a progressive career in international contracting.

The post is Head Office Accountant with an accounting responsibility for a number of overseas operations and the successful candidate must be prepared to make visits abroad as required.

Write giving brief personal and career details to:
David Coppin, Taylor Woodrow International Ltd,
Western House, Western Avenue,
London W5 1BJ

Taylor Woodrow International Ltd

Taylor Woodrow International Ltd

Taylor Woodrow International Ltd

Taylor Woodrow International Ltd

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Taylor Woodrow International Ltd

General Appointments

SENIOR INSOLVENCY PERSONNEL LONDON & PROVINCES

We are an international firm of Chartered Accountants, with one of the largest Insolvency practices in the United Kingdom. Continued increase in demand for our services has given rise to a need for a number of top quality Senior Insolvency Personnel in major centres around the U.K. One particular vacancy in London is concerned with the provision of technical support to the U.K. practice.

Applicants must have extensive experience in all aspects of insolvency, including both liquidation and receivership work. Promotion prospects are outstanding and the salary and benefit package will reflect the age, experience and potential of the successful applicants. Initially, candidates should write with full C.V.'s to our London Office Staff Partner, Tim Curry.



Ernst & Whinney

Becket House, 1, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU. Tel. 01-928 2000.

Petroleum Engineering Management Head a Major Department

Highly committed to developing the North Sea's resources, my client is one of the most active and most diverse involved having introduced some of the most innovative and inventive technological applications yet seen offshore.

You will take charge of its entire petroleum engineering group and will have full responsibility for maintaining the existing high standard of operation and for directing and controlling all future activities.

The petroleum engineering department covers all facets of the discipline and consists of a fairly large group of young, forward looking and highly competent professionals.

Heading and developing such a team will provide you with enormous personal satisfaction and considerable professional challenge.

You are presently one of the most technically competent in your field and your management skills will have been well tested and proven.

Should your experience, ability and motivation blend with the above, you will find the remuneration and benefits package offered will not be a barrier. The post is London based.

To arrange an absolutely confidential, early meeting please contact John Diack of Cripps, Sears & Associates Ltd. (Personnel Management Consultants), 88/89 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LH. Telephone 01-404 5701.

Cripps, Sears

THE INSTITUTE OF BANKERS UNDER-SECRETARY

The Institute of Bankers will be making a senior appointment, at Under-Secretary level, early in 1985, and invites applications by 15 October 1984.

The Institute is one of the largest bodies of its type in the world, and now has an international membership of about 120,000. Its functions cover the whole range of banking education, including qualifications and post-qualifying work.

Applications should have good records in administration, and some experience of commercial education and/or banking/finance would help. The ability to communicate effectively with people of many nationalities, and at many different levels of seniority, is essential. Degree, AIB or comparable professional qualification preferred. Age - minimum 35.

Main responsibility likely to be in development and administration of the Institute's qualifications, but at this level a contribution will be expected to all aspects of the work, and much will depend on the person selected.

Salary, including London weighting, not less than £25,000. Benefits include car, housing loan, contributory pension.

Applications, marked 'Personal', to Eric Glover, Secretary-General, The Institute of Bankers, 10 Lombard Street, London EC3.

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR/ADVISER PRIVATE TRUST CORPORATION

A private financial and trust corporation is responsible for providing managerial, financial and legal services to a leading commercial organization with international connections.

The corporation employs about 50 people and is managed by a small team of senior professional advisers. One of the directors will shortly retire and his replacement is sought. The job is to advise the clients on a wide variety of financial, investment and taxation matters, and to supervise and maintain the accounts of numerous companies and trusts.

Candidates, preferably in their thirties, will be honours graduate chartered accountants with senior professional experience in a merchant bank or other financial institution or professional office and have a wide knowledge of taxation and capital reconstruction projects. International experience an advantage.

Remuneration and other benefits will be appropriate.

Please submit c.v. together with a handwritten letter indicating how the requirements are met to:-

Box 0327 W The Times

ADMINISTRATOR £14,000

A well established SW1 professional institute is seeking a proven administrator to be responsible for their educational activities. Major tasks are the total co-ordination of their twice yearly examinations and the organisation of conferences and seminars. Applicants, aged 30-45 years, must be educated to degree standard or hold a professional qualification. This position will appeal to those who thrive in a people orientated environment where initiative, involvement and effective communication are the keywords. A current driving licence is essential.

Applicants should submit detailed CV's to: Mr Geoffrey Nash, MacBlain Nash & Associates, 16 Hanover Square, London W1, or telephone 01-499 9175

MacBlain NASH

Recruitment Consultants

COMPANY SECRETARY

Yorkshire Television is one of the five major independent television contractors which supply programmes to the ITV Network.

From our head offices and studios in Leeds we produce many hours of award-winning programmes, with the company's London offices handling the marketing and advertising sales, overseas programme sales, and our interests in book and music publishing. The company is taking a close interest in the new forms of media including video, cable and satellite television.

We are looking for a Company Secretary who must be able to demonstrate the experience and personal qualities necessary to take responsibility for the secretarial function throughout the YTV Group. Relevant experience would include pension fund and insurance administration; practical experience of company, employment, copyright and property law; and the servicing of a wide range of internal boards and committees.

The successful applicant will be required to live in Yorkshire. Assistance will be given with relocation expenses.

A competitive salary will be paid with a company car, contributory pension scheme and other fringe benefits.

Please send your application, curriculum vitae and details of current salary to Alan Hardy, Commercial Director, Yorkshire Television Limited, The Television Centre, Leeds LS3 3JS

YORKSHIRE TELEVISION

REPRESENTATIVE FREELANCE

Required by Established Midland based printers producing single to four colour work sheet fed.

Reply in Confidence To Box 1805T The Times

Personnel and Legal Administration with an International Airline

You will directly assist the Administration Manager of this major international airline with 250 UK staff and work at their central London head office. As Assistant Administration Supervisor you will be responsible for personnel and legal administration, as well as acting as Company Secretary for the pension scheme. Duties include employment and airline legislation, insurance, contracts, PFD taxation, training, staff training, recruitment and the supervision of 8 admin. staff.

This is a career opportunity for a graduate, ideally aged 24-30, who is seeking a prestigious administrative position. Legal experience, or an aptitude is highly desirable; perhaps you are leaving the legal profession,

or consolidating your commercial, personnel or travel industry experience. You need to be confident, but not forceful, and demonstrate the potential to progress further. Training will be encouraged including language tuition.

Salary to £9,000 with substantial performance reviews. Hours approximately 9.00-5.00, holiday 19 days rising to 23. Benefits include excellent concessionary travel, BUPA, IFSTL and Xmas bonus. Write in confidence with your CV, or ring our adviser for an application form: Susan Atkinson of Cripps, Sears & Associates Ltd. (Personnel Management Consultants), 88/89 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LH. Tel: 01-404 5701 (24 hours).

Cripps, Sears

PLYMOUTH POLYTECHNIC ENTERPRISES P.P.E.

Management Consultant

£20K Basic Salary Major Profit Sharing Scheme

P.P.E. is a new initiative to develop closer and more extensive links between Plymouth Polytechnic and industry. A priority appointment is a Management Consultant responsible for creating and executing business consultancy contracts. The appointee will also be expected to advise the P.P.E. Board on the development of a broad-based consultancy operation within P.P.E. utilising existing skills of Polytechnic staff.

Applicants should have a proven track record in management consultancy and at interview will be required to demonstrate why their area of expertise provides P.P.E. with significant revenue opportunities.

The bonus scheme is linked to a share of profits in excess of annual contribution objectives. For the individual with entrepreneurial skills, this scheme has the potential to generate an income approaching a six figure level.

Applicants should send their resume to Dr I. Chaston, c/o the Business School, Plymouth Polytechnic, Plymouth, Devon. The closing date is 27th September 1984, and interviews will occur in early October.



Plymouth Polytechnic

Unilever Export Limited

INTERNATIONAL MARKET RESEARCH MANAGER BRISTOL

Unilever Export Limited is an international company marketing and trading a wide range of branded fast moving consumer goods in over 100 markets overseas. Most of these products are in the Unilever detergents, foods and personal products ranges.

We are looking for a Market Research Manager who will be responsible for identifying, with marketing and sales management, where Market Research would increase the effectiveness of brand marketing strategies; for organising the resources existing within the Company in providing such information, briefing third party research agencies as required, and for analysing and interpreting the results. The job includes the control of a substantial market research budget.

The successful candidate will be under 35, educated to degree level and should have at least four years experience in market research gained ideally in a fast moving consumer goods environment or agency. He or she will have good communication skills together with a high degree of commitment and the position will involve overseas travel.

The salary will be commensurate with age and experience. The Company has excellent conditions including a generous superannuation scheme, private medical insurance and will provide a car allowance. The successful candidate will be open to career development opportunities afforded by joining a member of the Unilever group of Companies.

Please write giving details of your qualifications and experience to:- Mr W H Goodman, Company Personnel Manager, Unilever Export Limited, Greyfriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2JJ. Telephone: (0272) 276276 Ext. 925

IF YOU ARE A YOUNG GRADUATE - 22-33 YEARS

Who is determined to accept company procedures, willing to start with difficult and unpopular jobs including selling across the counter and truly accept responsibility, we want to start you at earnings of £7,500 pa with prospects, in an expanding new technology based company, of dramatic advancement.

Send CV to COMPUTER VIDEO, 128 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey.

AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD RESEARCH COUNCIL (AFRC) DIRECTOR of Food Research Institute, Reading

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the Food Research Institute, Reading, which is being set up jointly by the AFRC and the University of Reading, with effect from 1 April 1985. The new Institute, which will be based at Shinfield Reading, will undertake basic and applied research on the quality of milk and its conversion to dairy and other food products; oils and fats; confectionery products; the nutritional quality of food; and general food process engineering. Candidates should be highly qualified in food science or related sciences, with a distinguished record in research and experience in the

management of research. Salary in the range £19,243-£23,159 pa. Non-contributory pension scheme. The successful applicant may qualify for assistance with removal expenses. The Director will have the status of a member of the academic staff and will be a member of the Senate of the University of Reading. Further particulars and application forms can be obtained from the Chief Personnel Officer, AFRC, 160 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6DT. The closing date for applications is 12 October 1984. The Agricultural and Food Research Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



TYNESIDE CINEMA DIRECTOR

The Tyneside Cinema is developing its management structure and seeks to appoint a Director to lead a team which will include two deputy directors, the Programming and Administration. The new Director will be expected to shape the Cinema's future role in the rapidly changing world of moving image presentation, one aspect of which will be a major film raising exercise to provide a new purpose designed building. Applicants should have experience in management and administration at a senior level as well as in public relations and must be able to demonstrate a clear understanding of film culture and the new related technologies. Salary on NALGO scale PO1 (4-5) £10,761 - £12,087 (gross per annum). Please apply with full details to: The Secretary, Tyneside Cinema, 18/12 Pilsbury Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6QG. Closing date: Friday 28th September.

SUCCESSFUL BROKER

Seeks: ambitious, hard working 23-30 year old for large West End opportunity. Possible earnings £12,000 upwards during training. Ring Peter Ross on 409 3013

Quinton Scott & Co

Two live wire passionate people with proven capability (20-27 yrs) for modern pace setting sales agent office in Westminster. One residential and one commercial. Must be car driven and must enter the art of selling. High rewards for success. Contact John King or Alan Brown on 01-494 7700.

SCOTTISH HEALTH SERVICE COMMON SERVICES AGENCY SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE DIRECTOR: PROTEIN FRACTIONATION CENTRE

RE-ADVERTISEMENT Salary: £22,856-£26,639

Applications are invited for the above post which is a senior management position within the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service. The successful applicant will be responsible to the Management Committee of the Common Services Agency for the processing of all plasma received by the Protein Fractionation Centre and its conversion to therapeutic blood products.

Previous experience in the manufacture of biologicals in the industrial setting and in plasma fractionation would be an advantage. Whitley Council Terms and Conditions of Service apply. Appropriate information and application forms are available from the Appointments Section, Scottish Health Service, Common Services Agency, 15/16 Park House, South Tyneside Road, Edinburgh to whom applications should be returned by 12 October 1984. Further particulars and any clarification may be obtained by telephoning 031-444 2317 (Ext. 259). Please quote reference no 0639/T.T.

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

Languages on the agenda

"The rest of the world speaks English" is the excuse used by many of us not to learn a foreign language. However, the economic recession has forced many companies to look at markets abroad and as a result to reconsider their attitude to the importance of languages, not only for their sales, marketing and technical staff, but also for home-based support personnel.

There are good commercial reasons for learning foreign languages. First, not all clients understand English, even when it is spoken slowly, clearly and loudly. And those that do, may resent having to speak English, when after all, they are the clients.

In 1979 a British Overseas Trade Board report, *Foreign Languages for Overseas Trade*, concluded that language training in British companies was scrappy and ill-planned, with only two companies having worthwhile language-training programmes. This was in stark contrast to our overseas competitors - many West German companies for example, requiring staff to acquire foreign languages by linking promotion to increased language proficiency. Few British companies are that demanding, but now according to a study by Christine Wilding of Aston University, some are increasingly concerned about the language skills of staff.

An intensive course for basic survival

Today the ability to speak or master new languages is becoming an important element in selection and promotion, tipping the balance between job candidates with similar technical qualifications and experience. However, as a seminar for businessmen and language education at Aston showed recently, companies are remarkably ill-informed on what is available in the way of language teaching for business or special purposes.

Today, good language teaching uses the direct method, which has proved so successful in teaching English as a foreign language. The language to be learned is used from day one in question-and-answer technique in situations similar to those likely to be experienced in the learner's everyday working life.

Though different teaching methods will suit the personalities, abilities and job needs of individual students, it is generally recognized that learning face to face with a mother-tongue speaker,

At last British companies are realizing that English will not open every door abroad, says Corinne Julius

ie, a native speaker, is the best overall approach. The types and length of courses vary, but the most commonly used is the total immersion or crash course, in which the learner hears the language all the working day, studying either individually or in a small group. These courses often combine face-to-face language teaching with several different tutors reinforced by consolidation practice using cassettes or videos.

Courses may be held in-company or at school premises at the convenience of the client. They are usually run in the UK, but can take place in the country of the target language and some of the private international schools offer a combination. Courses generally last about six weeks, which is as much (if not more), than most students can take off from their everyday responsibilities.

Where a basic survival language is required, for example, with Middle or Far Eastern languages, a short intensive five to seven day general course at an elementary level with some emphasis on culture, as well as language, is the norm.

To provide the flexibility needed by executives who spend much of their time travelling, some schools offer a schedule of one residential week a month for four to six months or one full day a week over a defined period. Such courses offer language training and the chance to employ the language during business trips abroad.

Whatever the learning time-span, the most important factor to consider is the course content. Courses should be designed for the specific business or technical needs of the student.

The learner's language needs careful analysis - a salesman visiting the Middle East would normally employ an interpreter for detailed negotiations, but needs to be able to perform the basic greetings in Arabic, whereas a resident construction manager in Indonesia would need to acquire reasonable fluency in Bahasa Indonesia to sort out day-to-day problems and to talk to local bigwigs.

Language lessons often concentrate on relevant case studies, such as a negotiating session or a technical discussion, using specific job-related vocabulary and expressions.

Many schools now claim to design special courses and some concentrate on running courses only for special purposes. It is necessary to be wary because there are many get-rich-quick merchants in the private sector of language teaching. The fees at private schools can be high, especially compared to courses offered by public sector bodies, such as the polytechnics and some universities, which now have considerable experience in working with local industries to provide courses tailored to company needs. These polytechnic courses can be provided one-to-one and are not to be confused with two hours a week spent in adult-education classes.

Further aspects to consider in selecting appropriate courses are the student's existing knowledge of the language, his or her age, background and aptitude for languages. Company requirements will include time available (usually very little), expenses and the need to teach one or several students.

Having worked out what is required from a course it is helpful to check out several schools, bearing in mind that the cheapest course is not necessarily the best bargain; neither does the most expensive necessarily offer the highest standards.

Teachers should be good mother tongue speakers

Evaluating schools is difficult, but it is worth checking that a school is reputable and experienced by taking up references with previous clients. It is helpful to visit the school - an unattractive environment will not be conducive to learning - and to find out what facilities there are such as telephone, telex and secretarial assistance to keep in touch with clients and head office.

Language teachers need not be graduates but should be experienced mother-tongue speakers with an aptitude for communication. A good school will want to evaluate a student's language potential before, during and after the course. And the course should cover not only the language and specific job-related language, but something of the host country's culture and ways of doing business.

General Appointments

KNIGHTSBRIDGE ARTIFICIAL FLOWER AND TREE COMPANY

Are you a trained florist M/S with 10-15 years experience, age 21-30. A clean driving licence so we need a bright person to become part of a small team of interior floral designers dealing with fabric flowers and trees. Salary negotiable for appointment telephone 01-588 3574 or apply in writing with cv to BELLE FLEUR 15 Montpelier Street, London SW7.

Pitman Central College

Immediate vacancies for teachers of office skills (typing, shorthand, dictation, etc.) and for secretaries. Salary and conditions of service as per Pitman's Handbook. Apply to: Pitman Central College, 15 Montpelier Street, London SW7.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576
Telex No. 887374

CJA

A wide-ranging and developing role



ASSISTANT MANAGER - PERSONNEL

£14,000-£16,000+

INTERNATIONAL BANK

We invite applications from candidates, aged 28-33, with at least 3 years' experience in personnel, payroll and benefits administration, ideally in a bank, financial institution or international company. The successful candidate, assisted by an efficient team of three, will have responsibility for the smooth-running of the personnel and payroll administration for over 160 UK and overseas staff. Important will be ensuring the timely and accurate payment of London and overseas salaries (on a manual system), benefits, producing monthly/quarterly management information and assisting seconded staff with visas etc. This is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate management skills, innovative flair, attention to detail and a team spirit in a varied and challenging appointment, where numeracy and communication skills are important. Initial salary negotiable £14,000-£16,000 + mortgage subsidy, non-contributory pension scheme, free life insurance and free BUPA. Applications, in strict confidence, under reference AMP4289/TT, to the Managing Director:

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON ASSOCIATES (MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS), 35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON, EC2M 1NH. TELEPHONE: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. Telex: 887374. FAX NO: 01-588 8216

Chief Executive

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Belfast

£32,000+benefits

Founded twelve years ago, the NIHE is the central housing authority for Northern Ireland, with annual capital and revenue budgets approaching £500 million. Responsible for over 180,000 dwellings and employing 5,000 staff, it is successful, innovative and impartial.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the overall performance of the NIHE, and is accountable to its Chairman and to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland. Key tasks are assessment of housing need, planning and policy development to meet that need, and ensuring delivery of the housing strategy. Further development of systems, including those designed to promote efficiency, are of immediate importance.

Candidates, male or female and probably professionally qualified, are unlikely to be aged less than 35. They will have successfully managed a large organisation in the public or private sector, preferably where the head office provides policy and planning for decentralised performance-responsible units. Experience of

external relations, and of some aspect of housing or building, would be useful but is not essential.

The appointment will be for a five year term initially, with a clear prospect of renewal. Remuneration includes a salary of £32,000 and benefits. Relocation expenses will be offered, if appropriate.

Please send details of age, education, career, salary progression and present responsibilities to Barry Underwood, Adviser to the NIHE, quoting reference 1364/T on both envelope and letter. Interviews will be held in Belfast and London. Normal procedures of the Northern Ireland Local Government Staff Commission will apply.

Deloitte Haskins + Sells

Management Consultants

128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX

Recruitment Officer

Electronic Data Systems is one of the largest computer service companies in the world, having achieved international recognition in its 22 year history. With headquarters in Dallas, Texas, and US offices in all 50 States, EDS continues to expand throughout the UK and Europe, with a 25% annual growth rate and £500 million in annual revenues. To continue this long-standing tradition of excellence we aim to attract and retain top quality people.

We now seek a first class experienced Recruitment Officer for our London office. You will be responsible for the various aspects of recruitment and personnel activities, with the flexibility of occasional travel.

In addition to a degree and ideally IPM membership, you should have a minimum of 3 to 5 years recruiting experience in the data processing or a

related industry which has shown a consistent record of hiring activity. Effective communications skills plus a professional attitude and appearance are requirements for this position. The ability to work independently in a team environment will enable you to establish contact at all levels.

A competitive salary is offered together with a comprehensive range of benefits. If you are interested in joining a winning team and establishing a challenging career, write with full details of your work and salary history to:

Claudia Vilorio, Electronic Data Systems, 25 Gilbert Street, London W1.

EDS

Electronic Data Systems Corporation

Director of Operations

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Belfast

£28,500+benefits

Founded twelve years ago, the NIHE is the central housing authority for Northern Ireland, with annual capital and revenue budgets approaching £500 million. Responsible for over 180,000 dwellings and employing 5,000 staff, it is successful, innovative and impartial.

This is a new post at a level senior to that of the existing directors, with responsibility for the operational and financial performance of six Regional Directors and their management teams, and for the Director of Planning and Housing Management and his staff. Key tasks include the development of planning and policy, the integration of planning with day to day housing management, and the further delegation of responsibility to regions.

The Director of Operations will deputise for the Chief Executive as required.

Candidates, male or female and preferably professionally qualified, are unlikely to be aged less than 35. They will have extensive operational experience in a major public or private

sector body, and be able to demonstrate success in achieving objectives in a large organisation. Experience in managing a multi-discipline team of professional support staff is essential.

The appointment is permanent and offers a salary of £28,500, an essential car users' allowance, and other benefits. Relocation expenses are available, if appropriate.

Please send details of age, education, career, salary progression and present responsibilities to Barry Underwood, Adviser to the NIHE, quoting reference 1365/T on both envelope and letter. Interviews will be held in Belfast and London. Normal procedures of the Northern Ireland Local Government Staff Commission will apply.

Deloitte Haskins + Sells

Management Consultants

128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX

SHEFFIELD CITY POLYTECHNIC

Department of Urban and Regional Studies

LECTURER II IN LAND VALUATION (2-posts)

Applications are invited from holders of appropriate academic and professional qualifications. Experience or interest in post-graduate studies and research in the sphere of property valuation would be an advantage.

Salary scale: LJ £7,215-£11,568.

Under current salary regulations and subject to satisfactory performance the person appointed can normally expect incremental progression to the Senior Lecturer Scale of which the maximum is £13,445.

Applications forms can be obtained from:

The Personnel Officer (Dept T),
Sheffield City Polytechnic,
Hallsford House, Fitzalan Square, Sheffield S1 2BB,
or by telephoning 07 43-20011 ext 2387.

Closing date 28th September.
Sheffield City Polytechnic is an Equal Opportunities Employer. Applications from job seekers are welcome.

Education Officer

£9,416 rising to £11,468

The Commission for Racial Equality has a vacancy for an Education Officer in its London Office. The successful candidate must have the ability to work as a member of a team concerned with all ages and stages of education throughout the United Kingdom. This involves working with community organisations and public and professional bodies. The person appointed will be expected to assume special responsibility for work in the area of further and higher education.

The Commission is an equal opportunity employer. Applications are welcome from candidates of whatever race, sex or marital status and from persons with disabilities.

For further details and application forms please write to: Alison Ruse, Commission for Racial Equality, 10-12 Allington Street, Victoria, London SW1E 5EH, enclosing a large stamped addressed envelope.



Completed application forms should be returned no later than 12th October 1984.

Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences

ADMINISTRATOR WITH LEGAL INTERESTS

The Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences is a professional body with over 17,000 members, founded in 1932, incorporated and registered as a charity. Among its activities it advises members on professional matters related to their employment, including job descriptions, NHS and Health and Safety legislation. There is a vacancy for an Administrator with potential skill in this field, who would also have responsibility for insurance and other legal aspects of the Institute itself. He may be approached as to salary and security office. Experience in dealing with correspondence, preparing briefs, analysing documents, preparing agendas and minutes and undertaking follow-up action for committees would be an advantage. Appointment will be made within the salary range (currently under review) £6,712 - £13,085. Applications, in envelopes marked "Confidential", should be addressed to the General Secretary, Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences, 25 Cannon Avenue Street, London, W1M 5AL.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CARE

Part-Qualified Accountant

circa. £8,500 p.a.

Here is an excellent opportunity for a young enthusiastic accounting professional to join one of the world's most progressive and respected international health care organisations.

HCA is the world's largest hospital management company. Its base of operations covers a wide variety of health care projects with a high percentage of its resources assigned to hospital management contracts in the Middle East.

The successful candidate will join a small regional finance team based in our Wymore Street headquarters. Duties will include maintenance of general ledgers and preparation of management reports. Accounts are computerised on an IBM 34 and work stations are equipped with VDU's.

Applicants must be qualified to part I (ACCA, ACA, ICMA), have at least 3 years' accounting experience and be prepared to travel overseas.

Benefits include free health insurance, first class pension scheme, life insurance, season ticket loan scheme and financial assistance for studies. Please send your cv or write for an application form to Barry Ringstead at the address below

HCA International Ltd
49 Wymore Street
London W1H 9LE

HCA International Ltd

Human Resource Consultants

Compensation Systems

London

£ negotiable

The provision of remuneration systems advice to assist client companies in attracting, motivating and retaining managers and staff is an important part of our management consultancy practice.

The demand for this service is increasing and we now need additional consultants to join our fast developing human resources team. The work will involve conducting salary surveys, designing compensation systems and advising on the implementation of a variety of executive incentive and employee share plans.

This is a challenging and growing part of our practice offering excellent career prospects.

We should welcome applications from interested candidates who

- ☐ are aged between 30 and 40
- ☐ have sound experience of personnel systems and specifically of compensation systems
- ☐ have had consultancy experience and/or have worked in a professional organisation
- ☐ preferably have experience of working in the banking and financial institutions sector

We offer a stimulating environment, excellent facilities and an attractive remuneration package including a car and other benefits.

Please write in confidence, setting out brief career information, to: Bob Simm, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., Management Consultants, 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD.

PEAT MARWICK

ACCURAY

Agency design, production, materials and services computer-based process control and management information systems for the food, pharmaceutical, plastics, metals and textile industries. Accuray is a dynamic American corporation with manufacturing facilities now established in the UK and throughout Europe and a growing network in South America.

PERSONNEL OFFICER FOR TECHNICAL SALES AND SERVICE

The position calls for a determined young person with potential, in an interesting people oriented environment. Accuray has a high turnover of management and engineering personnel and is a dynamic American corporation with manufacturing facilities now established in the UK and throughout Europe and a growing network in South America. Consequently applicants should be university graduates with a degree in a relevant discipline. The successful candidate will be responsible for recruitment, selection and training of technical sales and service personnel. This is a challenging and growing part of our practice offering excellent career prospects.

Please send CV, in confidence, to: Doug Owens, ACCURAY (UK) LTD,

Accuray House, Crossway Industrial Estate, Coronation Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3TY.

ACCURAY (UK) LTD is an Equal Opportunities Employer. Applications from job seekers are welcome.

CONFIDENTIAL JOB IN LEADERSHIP POSITION

For a leading international organisation, we are seeking a highly motivated and experienced individual to take on a leadership role in our London office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the strategic development and implementation of our business in the UK and Europe. This is a challenging and growing part of our practice offering excellent career prospects.

For further details and application forms please write to: Alison Ruse, Commission for Racial Equality, 10-12 Allington Street, Victoria, London SW1E 5EH, enclosing a large stamped addressed envelope.

Completed application forms should be returned no later than 12th October 1984.

NEGOTIATOR, SWI Line

For a leading international organisation, we are seeking a highly motivated and experienced individual to take on a leadership role in our London office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the strategic development and implementation of our business in the UK and Europe. This is a challenging and growing part of our practice offering excellent career prospects.

For further details and application forms please write to: Alison Ruse, Commission for Racial Equality, 10-12 Allington Street, Victoria, London SW1E 5EH, enclosing a large stamped addressed envelope.

Completed application forms should be returned no later than 12th October 1984.

CONFIDENTIAL JOB IN LEADERSHIP POSITION

GRADUATE with strong business and

For a leading international organisation, we are seeking a highly motivated and experienced individual to take on a leadership role in our London office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the strategic development and implementation of our business in the UK and Europe. This is a challenging and growing part of our practice offering excellent career prospects.

For further details and application forms please write to: Alison Ruse, Commission for Racial Equality, 10-12 Allington Street, Victoria, London SW1E 5EH, enclosing a large stamped addressed envelope.

Completed application forms should be returned no later than 12th October 1984.

CONFIDENTIAL JOB IN LEADERSHIP POSITION

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for SANDY WILSON'S
"WONDROUS MUSICAL"
M-F-S

10am to 10pm on Sat.
 Or any 10am-Open
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 March 1995

Russians publish article by Sakharov

From Richard Owen
Moscow

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physicist confined by the Kremlin to Gorky and reviled in the press as a traitor, has been allowed to publish an article in a Soviet scientific journal.

The move is seen as an attempt to prove that Dr Sakharov is well and able to function as a scientist, rather than the first step toward his rehabilitation.

In his article, published in a recent issue of the *Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Physics*, Dr Sakharov thanked his wife, Yelena Bonner, for her help in its preparation. That is considered as remarkable as the appearance of the article itself, since Mrs Bonner has been the target of a vituperative press campaign and is to be put on trial for anti-Soviet slander.

Dr Sakharov has published in the journal before, but not since the present campaign against him began and alarm rose about his health.

According to some reports, the trial of Mrs Bonner has taken place already and she was sentenced to five years' exile for smuggling Dr Sakharov's writings on human rights and nuclear questions to the West, allegedly using contacts in the United States Embassy in Moscow.

Dr Sakharov's article, on the origins of the universe, appeared last month, but it has only now been drawn to the attention of foreign correspondents. It is signed "A. D. Sakharov", without his title of Academician.

It was passed for publication in March, before Dr Sakharov began a hunger strike in protest against the authorities' refusal to allow his wife to go abroad for medical treatment. Informed sources said a second article had been submitted last month and would appear in a subsequent issue of the journal.

Dr Sakharov is thought to be a sick man after his forcible confinement in Gorky city hospital. Various attempts have been made by the Kremlin to demonstrate to the world that he is well, including the release of videos.

Foreign journalists and diplomats are not allowed to travel to Gorky. Dr Sakharov's hunger strike began in May, and experts said the video films of him showed the fast had taken its toll.

Kremlin struggle, page 8



Over and out: Keith Hagedorn escaped with bruises after being thrown out of his drag boat, which overturned at 96 mph during a race on the Fraser river at Mission, British Columbia.

Freedom group wins ex-Whitehall men

By Peter Hennessy

The 1984 Campaign for Freedom of Information will announce today the recruitment of several retired senior civil servants who spent the late 1970s fighting off open government legislation on behalf of the Callaghan administration.

They include Lord Croom, former head of the Home Civil Service, who minuted his fellow permanent secretaries in 1977 that freedom of information legislation along the lines of that in the United States would be "formidably burdensome".

Mr Des Wilson, chairman of the 1984 campaign committee, and Sir Douglas were quick to dismiss yesterday the view, that the campaign would be gelded by the arrival of a group of retired officials with decades of experience of watering down the more radical proposals of successive governments.

The other panel members are Sir Patrick Naime, former Permanent Secretary to the Department of Health and Social Security, Sir Kenneth Cleeves, former Permanent Secretary to the Department of Trade, and Mrs. Barbara Sloan, who retired from the Cabinet Office earlier this year.

Chip error hits US defence

Continued from page 1

Hughes Aircraft and Lockheed.

The Pentagon said it would resume accepting weapons systems on a case-by-case basis once the testing problems have been resolved.

● The Ministry of Defence and British Aerospace said yesterday there was no evidence of any problem in British equipment using microchips supplied by Texas Instruments (Rodney Cowton writes).

British Aerospace said they used some Texas Instruments microchips, primarily in the Rapier air defence missile system and in some air-launched missiles. The Rapier had been used very successfully in Falklands conflict, and no problems had been revealed in routine tests of microchips for other systems.

Mr Richard Mann, press relations manager for Texas Instruments in the UK, said it was possible some of the relevant chips had come to Britain but could not be certain for two or three days.

A little espionage in the countryside

By Michael Horsnell

Scarcely an eyebrow was raised in the comfortably appointed planning office at Shire Hall, headquarters of Gloucestershire County Council, when two thick-set gentlemen with east European accents arrived seeking information.

Like ordinary foreign businessmen looking for factory premises they purchased a copy of the county's structure plan, a blueprint of the council's plans for the area, for £5, and left with it and a pile of leaflets promoting local industry.

Apart from their accents and unusually heavy clothing for the time of year the only odd aspect of their visit was the presence of two other men who discreetly observed them from the corridor.

It was not until the next day that council planning officers in Gloucester, nine miles from GCHQ, the Government's communications headquarters - learnt that the mission was not all it seemed.

The two men had given their address as Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 - otherwise known as the Soviet Embassy.

And the other two men were their "tails" from Scotland Yard's Special Branch. According to police who arrived the day after to take statements from the council officers the visitors from the embassy were KGB agents who were engaged in a clumsy attempt to obtain information on GCHQ.

Mr Charlie Watson, a senior planning officer, said yesterday: "We were amazed when the police turned up and asked what had been said. We thought they were just foreign businessmen making normal enquiries about industry in the area."

"But our understanding now is that they were diplomats who had been given permission to travel outside the London area and that they represented the KGB."

Police declined to comment on the episode, which happened last June, for security reasons. No comment was available last night from the Soviet Embassy.

Letter from the 'front'

Lionheart troops test logistics of war

It was a pretty bleak welcome to West Germany. Five days of continuous rain had left the wood cold, muddy and gloomy, and as the convoys started rolling in after a gruelling, slow haul across the Continent from the Channel ports, the British soldiers had a bare five hours to eat and rest before setting off again for the "front" further east.

Field messes had been set up in a clearing, huge khaki tents, where hot food was cooked and served out while the convoys waited on the dripping pines outside.

A generator hummed somewhere in the distance. Electric lights had been strung up in the trees for the huge convoys that were to arrive later in the night. Big water tanks had been set up near open-air basins in the woods. A row of bright green latrines was set back discreetly to one side.

The lorries and land-rovers, checking in at the control and checkpoint under the camouflage netting, would disgorge their coddies and bump on through the woods over muddy tracks, strengthened by engineers during the day with sand and gravel, before stopping at the improvised fuel station.

The nozzles of the pumps rested in oil drums while the hoses snaked back to a vast, billowing plastic petrol store, guarded by firemen and sprawling on the ground like a sinister octopus. Filling their tanks and jerry cans, the convoys would move on around the circuit before lining up bumper to bumper on open, sandy ground.

This was Leuth staging area, the assembly point for thousands of British Army troops and territorial units who were pouring across the Channel in exercise "Full Flow" and will soon be fighting an imaginary war along the inner German border.

About 131,000 troops are taking part in "Lionheart", Britain's contribution to the Nato autumn manoeuvres and the largest exercise British forces have staged in West Germany since the Second World War.

The wood, north of the Rhine Army headquarters at Mönchengladbach and backing on to the Dutch frontier, is a permanent military training area, and contains the debris of exercises by other Nato

forces: half broken brick walls that were once a shooting range under the trees, pits and tracks dug out by earlier troops and vehicles.

Halfway round the circuit a platoon of paratroopers were guarding a tent in the woods. A young soldier was crouching behind his machine gun, half-hidden in the neat trench he had dug in the sandy soil and protected from the incessant rain by a square of tenting stretched over him and secured to the trees with elastic cord.

Behind the tent six soldiers, blacking their faces (provided to the Army, astonishingly, by Max Factor), noiselessly slipped into their "hide" - a heap of pine needles and loose earth that concealed an underground chamber where soldiers could stay for weeks. After the state man had slipped through the small opening, a fellow paratrooper replaced the trap door and scattered the pine needles over it.

Soldiers in camouflage jackets were moving about the wood, coordinating the arrival and departure of the troops, lorries and armour.

"Full flow" has only just begun, and prepacked unit equipment (pne in the ubiquitous jargon of Army acronyms) is still being collected by the 20,000 soldiers who will arrive by air. Tanks and armoured guns are rumbling through the long suffering villages in the former British military zone. Most of the heavy armour at present roaring at a brisk pace along the motorways - escorted by flashing west German police cars - is American.

About 3,000 American troops are being attached to the British exercise, although their fellow countrymen are holding their own coordinated manoeuvres further south.

Peace protesters have threatened to disrupt the autumn exercises, turning round directions and road signs, blocking entrances to camps and holding demonstrations in the battle zones.

Army officers politely turn aside questions about the resemblance of the exercises to the real thing: no point in being too precise about the logistics. Anyway, the aim is to test the reinforcement of the British Army of the Rhine and not to charge all over west Germany unimpeded.

Michael Binyon

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Anne, patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association visits the Bridgend Group at Longacre Farm, Bridgend, Glamorgan, 2.30.
The Duke of Gloucester attends a Service of Thanksgiving and later opens the New Visitors' Centre at the Liverpool Cathedral, 2.30.

New exhibitions

From Irving to Gielgud:

theatrical ephemera. Art Gallery Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 5, closed Sunday. (ends Oct 2).

New exhibitions in London

Edward Cullinan Architects, Royal Institute of British Architects, Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Sq W1: Mon to Fri 11 to 5. Sat 10 to 1. (ends Oct 20).
Graham Ashton, recent watercolours and paintings by Nick de Ville, Fischer Fine Art, 30 King St, St James's SW1: Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, closed Sat and Sun. (end Sept 24).

Exhibitions in progress

Final exhibitions by Birmingham Polytechnic M. Fine Arts students, Ikon Gallery, 58-72 John Bright St, Birmingham, until Sat, 10 to 6.
Living in the City: photographs by Robert Hamilton. Impressions Gallery of Photography, 17 Collier St, York: Tues to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun and Mon (until Oct 13).
Paintings by Brian and Barbara Stevens, Hereford City Museum, Broad Street, Tues to Fri 10 to 6, Thur and Sat 10 to 4, (ends Sept 22).
Polish constructivism by Manuel Alvarez Bravo and Pierre Bonnard, Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke St, Oxford: Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30, Wed to Sun 10 to 5. (ends Sept 30).

The Glasgow Style 1890-1920, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5. (ends Oct 7).

Pastimes in Past Times, Hagg Castle Museum, 100 St Andrews Drive, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5. (ends Sept 26).

Tradition and renewal, contemporary art in the German Democratic Republic, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Jordan Well, Caversham, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5. (ends Sept 23).

Creation: Modern art and nature, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5. (ends Oct 14).

British Artists Abroad, Cooper Gallery, Church St, Banbury: Tues 1 to 5.30, Wed to Sun 10 to 5.30, Mon closed. (ends Sept 30).

Last chance to see Rob Fairley paintings and Paul Gandy ceramics, Open Eye Gallery, 75 Cumberland St, Edinburgh: 10 to 6. (ends today).

Hill, Orell, 31, 31 High St, Wexford, Powys: 11 to 5. (ends today).

The spot in which revolutionaries plot changes (7).

Poem composed by our dean (7).

Regret rising - send in crack troops (7).

Elgar Festival Concert by The Cota Music Group, St Mary de Lode, Gloucester, 7.30.

Recital by Abigail Young (violin) and Sophia Rahman (piano), St Thomas's Church, Salisbury, 7.30.

International Musicians Seminar, Prussia Cove (Sandor Vegh), Mixed concert at Tregenna Castle Hotel, St Ives, 9.

General

Great Autumn Flower Show, Exhibition Halls, Harrogate, 11 to 7, tomorrow 10 to 7, Sat 9.30 to 5, British Craft Show, Syon Park Gardens, Brentford, Middlesex, 10 to 6 daily (ends Sept 16).

New books - paperbacks

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week

FICTION
Chalky's Safari, by Rachel Ingle (Everyman, £2.95)
Chalky's Journey, by Ian Watson (Granada, £1.95)
Christopher Homm, by CH Sisson (Corgi, £2.50)
Collected Short Stories, by Bartlett Bracht (Methuen, £3.95)
Fiddling Gaby, by Simon Raven (Granada, £1.95)
Fiddling Gaby, by Simon Raven (Granada, £1.95)
Sound the Retreat, by Simon Raven (Granada, £1.95)
The Collected Stories, by Dylan Thomas (Everyman, £2.95)
The Volcanoes of Time, by G. K. Chesterton (Penguin, £2.95)
Waterland, by Graham Swift (Picador, £2.50)

Roadworks

Midlands: A38: Contraflow in operation on Burton to Trent by-pass. A34: Delays south of Hanford, Stoke on Trent, contraflow. A1: Repair work between Wadhwa and Coddington, near Newark, contraflow and diversions.
Wales and West: M4: Between junctions 21 and 22 Severn Bridge: contraflow at weekends, lane closures, speed limit. A590: Roadworks in St Ives.
North: A168: Painting at Warren House Bridge between the A1 and Thirsk, contraflow. A590: Resurfacing work east of the A572 junction at Pockley, near Doncaster. A66: Roadworks 3 miles east of Bowes causing delays between North Blits and Grete Bridge, temporary lights.

Scotland: A92: By-pass construction 3 miles north of Stonehaven, single line traffic with lights, diversions. A950: New bridge construction and resurfacing west of Longside, single line traffic. A82: Road works east of Ballachulish Bridge, single line traffic.

Marathon runners
Application forms for the 1985 London Marathon are available from all Nationwide Building Society branches. If your application is accepted the Nationwide Research Campaign is looking for sponsored runners. The campaign will give back-up help and provide sponsorship forms, literature, and a free running vest. Details from Michael Heyland, on 01-581 3678.

Anniversaries
Births: William Cecil, Lord Burghley, Elizabeth I's first minister, Bourne, Lincolnshire, 1520.
Deaths: Andrea Mantegna (painter of the "Triumph of Caesar", now at Hampton Court), Mantua, 1506.
Charles James Fox, Whig statesman, historian, Chiswick, London, 1806.
John Barry, who has been claimed as the true "Father of the American Navy" (he urged the retention of a naval force after the War of Independence and paid for a frigate, the "United States"), Philadelphia, 1803.
General James Wolfe, killed at the moment of victory on the heights of Abraham, Quebec, 1759.
W. Heath Robinson, cartoonist, London, 1944.

How to claim
Telephone The Times Police office on 0204-65272 between 10.00 am and 5.30 pm on the day your overall total matches The Times Police Division. No claim can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Police office on the day your overall total matches The Times Police Division.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to credit the claim offer for any reason within the stipulated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to each daily and weekly dividend claims.

Some Times Police cards include minor mistakes in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

The winning of Rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Game Rules are not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Our address
Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to: Sally-Anne Wilkins, TIS, The Times, PO Box 2, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 9EX.

Rules will appear again in Friday's paper.

Weather forecast

A depression to NW of Scotland will move N, while frontal troughs cross N districts of UK.

6am to midnight

London, SE, Cen S, SW England, E Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: A misty start with sunny intervals developing, wind variable light; max temp 22C (72F).

E, NW, Cen N, NE England, N Wales: Sunny intervals, outbreaks of rain spreading from N later, wind SW moderate, max temp 18C (64F).

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NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts: warm, cold, occluded. Symbols: sun, cloud, rain, snow, hail, fog, etc. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled, temperature Fahrenheit.

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